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## EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH

### Narrative Non-fiction and the Coming of Democracy in South Africa

**HEDLEY TWIDLE**

Over the last decades, South Africa has seen an outpouring of life-writing and narrative non-fiction. Authors like Panashe Chigumadzi, Jacob Dlamini, Mark Gevisser, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Antjie Krog, Sisonke Msimang, Njabulo Ndebele, Jonny Steinberg and Ivan Vladislavic; have produced a compelling and often controversial body of work, exploring the country's ongoing political and social transition with great ambition, texture and risk.

*Experiments with Truth* is the first book-length account of the new non-fiction in South Africa. It traces the strange and ethically complex process by which real people, places and events are shuffled, patterned and plotted in long-form prose narrative. It is increasingly drawn to a post-TRC aesthetic: to non-fictional works that engage with difficult, inappropriate or unusable pasts - and with the unfinished project of social justice and reconstruction in South Africa. In doing so, it places southern African materials in a context, and in dialogue with other important non-fictional traditions that have emerged at moments of social rupture and transition.

HEDLEY TWIDLE is a writer, teacher and researcher based in the English Department at the University of Cape Town. He specialises in twentieth-century, southern African and world literatures, as well as creative non-fiction and the environmental humanities. His essay collection, *Firepool: Experiences in an Abnormal World*, was published in 2017.

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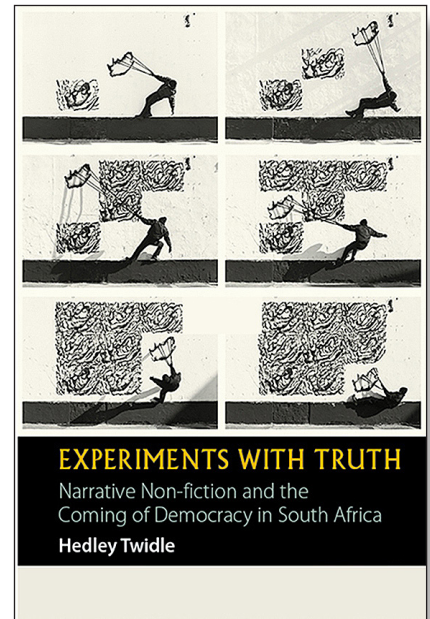
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