

Material, references, and sources for the Theoria entry
on Wikipedia

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Interview 1

Interview with Raphael de Kadt

Transcribed version

2022-10-23

Niklas Andersson

I have made minor edits throughout the transcribed text to help with readability. Things that were removed are repetitions of words that occur naturally in speech. And I corrected misspellings of names or words and added [unintelligible] to certain parts of the text where I could not understand what was being said or make a correct spelling of what was being said. I also removed two sections for privacy reasons. The first was where we exchanged phone numbers for easier communication on the interviewee's own volition. The second was when the interview was getting to the end and the discussion drifted into the subject of politics, so that was also removed for privacy reasons.

Transcript

Niklas Andersson

Alright, something's happening.

Raphael de Kadt

I'll just pick I've got it here. Excellent, well, let me first thank you for taking on this task. I think it's an interesting one because I think in many ways Theoria are very interesting journal. It was a product really of the University of Natal. As it was in. Those days back in the late 1900s. And began as a General journal of what might broadly called social, political, and related discussion and reflection and involved in its founding for people like Doctor Collins, who was a chemist. At the University of Natal and went on to have a very distinguished history in the United Nations in UNESCO, where he became head of library services in, among other places, Geneva, where he went on in to have an important role as I recorded. I speak under correction CN and actually as a young. Not quite man, as an adolescent without 15, I had the good fortune to meet him in university.

Niklas Andersson

Could you just slow down a bit? All these names? Is it possible for you to type them in in the chat so I can properly write them out so I don't miss her?

Raphael de Kadt

Yes, I can put it on the whiteboard. You want me to do it on the whiteboard here.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, sure. So yes. Have the names correctly.

Raphael de Kadt

It's cobbler COB oops.

Niklas Andersson

Let me see if I can.

Raphael de Kadt

Just see if I can write on this. It's COBLANS. and he was one of the people and it was a journal of very broad compass. And it operated for quite a while as. A kind of. General Journal of Intellectual Reflection on. You know the state of the whole range of aspects of it's called it you know humankind in the post Second World War era. And it continued in that way until it transitioned slowly into a journal with much more centered on literary studies, particularly in what you might call the literary criticism tradition of leaders and others, and. Time became ever more, dare I say it and I put this word in scare quotes "Parochial". It became a kind of Pietermaritzburg centric journal of Literary studies and its circulation declined. And it reached a point where there was a management committee that was of the view that it should either be completely revised or redefined or closed down. And I happened in 1989 to give a lecture. On democracy and the future, and on modernity having a party in the future of democracy, which was a Richard Turner Memorial Lecture and one of the Theoria editors. A very charming woman called Audrey Cahill CAHIL, liked the lecture very much. And said to me. Could we publish Theoria? And I said, sure, you know, absolutely. Pleasure, and so it was published into Theoria, and I wasn't aware of the deliberations, but the management committee thought that my lecture suggested that I was the person to in some way or another, take over Theoria, turn it around, redefine its purpose. And give it some intellectual shape that would resonate and it could build up the circulation. So I then got a phone call from the person who I believe at the time. Was the chair. Of the management committee. A very well known. Indeed, I suppose we would say famous South African economist Norman Bromberger. Bromberger phoned me, and he said, would I be willing to take on the responsibility of reshaping the journal? So I thought about it for a short while. And since and this is part of my own biography, and since for a long time I'd wanted to South African journey to be created or to create one that spoke to the big themes in social, political and economic science and affairs more generally, in other words. I've been looking at journals that had evolved. Abroad, whether it be theory and society, or especially during the period of evolution of the critical theory tradition in Eastern Europe, you know Praxis International. There was also a journal called the New German. The key, even though more narrowly defined political scope purpose. The new left review. The New York Review of Books, as well, was for me a kind of. How can I put it yardstick? That was a really good broad journal would be like OK, the new. York review of. Books and the silvers had its own particular character which was distinctive, but it was a very significant journal with lots of very interesting. People right? So I had all these some ideas. If you like of a abroad involved. If I can put it that way, journal of ideas you know with I suppose something of the hubris of scholars and intellectuals that ideas matter is not just you know, rich people do things and buy super yachts or that you have to take that old line. Many a revolution starts in some dull professors office. So with that sort of idea in mind, and I've been wanting for a long time to get the journal going because South Africa was acting very thin on social and political theory, there was very little of it being done and there were journals that were more discipline specific like. Politico, which was associated with political science association and for which in the. End once it. Became if you like more credible, I also wrote. But there was no real

journal in South Africa that could compete or compete as long term and perform the same sort of function as those journals that I've mentioned. So I saw this invitation as an opportunity to give expression to the ideas. Not always coherent as is often but these general ideas that are floating around in my head. But I didn't have an instrument. You know there wasn't a journal that I could at that point and put into being because there were. There were the resources, you know, it's a question of resource constraint and I didn't have the means to do it. So being given the opportunity to reshape an existing journal was for me a wonderful opportunity and so I was to start with it back in 1989. Appointed as the chief editor, that is the primary type of editor and I worked along with a couple of other people. Somebody who had for a little while stayed on who was custodian. Of the old. Literary criticism idea of the journal, a man called Francois Hugo the same as in the spelling of the great French. Right so Francois Hugo had stayed on, a man with an interest in theology and philosophy. Very nice man, Patrick Maxwell stayed on as well from the Anseong regime. The old theory. And then I brought on board some new people, including to begin with and he was very important in the foundation. Man called Duncan green. Who was a lecture in political science and then moved more and more into computer science and into computer related into Internet related things more generally and finally became the Director of Computer services at the then University of Natal and then moved on to become. He still is the executive director of TEANET, which is the major South African relation that facilitates the access that South African universities in the search institutes have to the global Internet system to the worldwide web more broadly, and also the more general Internet type operations so. He played a part in redesigning the cover, which might sound trivial, but Seti, very importantly, the way your cover looks, says something about the character of the journal. We gave it a kind of. How can I put it lean high mode?

Niklas Andersson

I have a question about this old cover, does it still exist in some format?

Raphael de Kadt

Yes, there are copies university that has all the copies to the best of my knowledge and I actually. Went to it. And I found the copies going back to the late 1940s apart from the university in the Tower Library or the UK. ZN Library is the University of Illinois Library in the. Banner in Champaign, Urbana. University of Illinois has a very large African Studies program. It always has, and they collected the journal assiduously from the very first days. So it's been one of the constant university subscribers to Florea through its entire existence. There may be one or two issues that are missing. But it's a pretty complete state, so.

Niklas Andersson

How would you are supposed to get a hold of a copy of it, because it could be very interesting to have it displayed as a picture on the website? Perhaps an older issue?

Raphael de Kadt

Yes, I might have one somewhere at home here. In fact, let me just if you can bear with me a moment, the bookshelf behind me might even have one. Let me just have a look and see if I can find it. Now I can't find the very original one. It is one, possibly in what remains of the office side, but it's in Augustine. But here is the one that Duncan Reeves readers are. Yeah, what I said. About the high, modern design, I don't know if you can see it.

Niklas Andersson

I can see some of yes.

Raphael de Kadt

You can see it, yeah, that's how it was redesigned and. The next thing that I did is I brought on board people who whom I felt I could really engage with. One of them was and of course you know him well. Laurence piper. Another, apart from Duncan Green and Laurence Piper, who played an absolutely pivotal role, I think his role must not be underestimated in any account of the history is Roger Deacon. Who lectured for a good while in education at the University of Natal and now does a lot of work for the National Research foundation. He's obviously, as you probably know, one of the people on the editorial board, and Roger was a phenomenal, fantastic managing editor because I was very good at generating provocative ideas, it's easy to do that. But making sure that the journal comes out on time is well organized, et cetera has fallen historically to two people. Since I took over in 1989, the one is Roger Deacon who's a brilliant managerial editor and the other is Sherran Clarence. And again, you will now know and to cut a long story short, I thought that one of the ways to develop the journal. As one that has an international press. So, if you look at these additions that came up when I was the editor in Chief because I was ultimately promoted, or my position evolved into. Depending on how you see it, that had been editor in chief and so effectively from 1989 until Lawrence Hamilton took over in 2009. That's for over 20 years. I was EIC editor in chief and one of my ideas was to give the journal be Real International, to have it a South African based journal. And the winds of history were in our sails. Fortunately, because this happened during the period as well, in which South Africa was transitioning into a democracy. Because it was clear to all of us who were South African observers and South African political scientists, that the September the 6th election in 1989. Was going to be the last racially exclusive election. It was clear to me, not to a lot of people in the US and elsewhere where I gave some conference letters, but it was clear to me that the September the 6th election was going to be the last racially exclusive. By 1994. Was that's when the next election was due constitutionally and South Africa would be constitutional democracy, which is exactly what happened. I had no doubts, no illusions about that, so I thought, well, let's take advantage of the wind that is actually blowing increasingly propitious into the sails of South Africa. And let's ride with that wind with the. So it seemed to me that the journal actually spoke to global issues in a way that people outside of South Africa could relate to. And not to parochial concerns, in literary theory, of a very sort of narrowly English style that I. Might put it. That way would be the way to get the journal, though we did have some challenges and perhaps I should talk. About some of the challenges. And there were two challenges really. One was to see if I can put it. It this way. Rebrand the journal to use current market. So, rebranding the journal was very important and to make it much more defined and yet encompassing so we decided to change it into a Journal of social and political theory. Rather than just, you know, a journal that doesn't have any specific focus in its name that has become a kind of in-house campus style journal on the other and the latter, the campus style journals clearly not financially sustainable. We needed to have something that was financially sustainable, so that was the first challenge. The second challenge was to update or to modernize. You might even post modernize if you'd like to modernize the actual production. Of the journal. The actual processes of editing of peer reviewing, all that sort of stuff as well as of the printing, typesetting, et cetera. And there I have to confess I had a battle. With the then head of the University of Natal. And publishing costs make their own. Publishing University of Macau Press, and they had historically always published the journal and the person who ran the press was very old fashioned. She was very sort of devoted type, sitting in the traditional old-fashioned work. She believed as well that editors had to edit, which meant not going through the scripts online and correcting things with word processors, but actually

sitting down with hard copy and using editor's guideline manual. As the basis on which you did your editing, you had put markings in the margin, so you had to sort of indicate whether something should be in lower case or upper case and whether it should be italicized. You would write Ital in the margin or whatever, and she was very insistent that everything came in hand. Even though the computer revolution was now well underway, she was very. It's a question of people sometimes being prisoners of, or comfortable, or in depending how you want to see it, and an old way of doing things. So she was very averse to my idea that you should actually switch to using word processors and the Internet. In fact, she was extremely hostile to that, but we had to work with her for a while because there was no other way. Of doing it. You know she headed up the press and the press was very old fashioned and conservative in its editorial operations, and she was very suspicious of what she saw. Young upstarts, as I was seen in people like me who wanted to go with the new ways of doing things. So that was a challenge which I think in a way we managed to manage with our sort of losing the journal completely and. It was also a bit tricky because there were people on the management committee who were very conservative and were worried that was being taken over. By the left. As they saw it. So, we had to also appease some of the management as well as the head of the press. And then a bit of good fortune struck. I haven't visited Detroit, and this was indeed in 1989 when I've just taken over the journal when I was going around saying that by 1994, South African would be a constitutional democracy and I was invited by Ronald Aaronson. The Great scholar and the author of the dialect disaster and so on and so forth. And he was the distinguished Professor of Humanities at Wayne State University. He'd actually himself had a very interesting history had been a student of Herbert [Marcuse]. Bob Pulzar and Perry Anderson had entrusted him with the only official authorized copy of Jean Paul Sartre's second, not the critique of dialectical reason, but the one that followed. And, you know he was actually the person he edited and put out. Start second key and Aaronson happened to have made contact with and had got. He starts studies to publish to Berghahn books because he's got to know Marion Berghahn herself. So after my, I went to Detroit several times. 1989, 1992 and 1994, and I believe it was in my 1992 visit. But I do speak under correction in terms of dates that I actually met up with Marion. The account itself in New York, in the Upper West Side because her husband was professor of history at Columbia University, and we had a long discussion about the future of the journal. And she took the risk and one has to really sort. Of note, Marion berghahn, on his own personal commitment here and the role of Ronald Aaronson. He became one of our editorial consultants in actually. So we owe great deal to Marian Berghahn and also very importantly to Ronald Aaronson, who put us. In touch with. For willing, being willing to take the risk of publishing this third world, so to speak, as we've seen from Europe, a Third World Journal in a first world environment. And at that point Berghahn was based at Oxford as well as in Rhode Island. They had two bases, and she had previously been the founder of Berghahn publishing US. That's where Berghahn got its name from. Which was a very interesting innovative publishing pass and had its own particular signal. Emerging with the focus on cultural studies, anthropology and European history, those were the main fields, and she took on the task of publishing the Theoria, and it became one of the earliest of the journals. In their now very big staple. So, one has to in any kind of write up of the history, give huge credit to Ronald Aronson to seeing the possibility of that connection and to Marion Berghahn for being willing to take the risk as somebody who really knew about publishing, and this is something not to go into anything official that. When I told the Mobs Mobley [unintelligible] who's the head of the University of Macau Christ [unintelligible] and we were going to shift to the. She was obviously. Very pleased the journal was going away from [the university] but she didn't want to be involved in publishing a journal. Global presence and that was doing sort of things that we were starting to do, but she was very critical of Marion Berghahn, and she said yes, I can see her sitting all

the time in business class in an airplane. Flying from England to New York and back again. But you know not to be repeated, but she didn't. Like Marion Berghahn, but if I can put it bluntly, but you know that's what happens in public. Life, you know? Professional life people don't always get on, but she was very glad to get rid of the journals from the University of Michigan Press because Marion Berghahn understood that a journal in the 1990s was going to need to become a digital, was going to need to be able to be projected through the Internet. Through what came to be the worldwide web, she was aware of this that this was no longer the age of Hard books, of how you edit, but you know the editing had to be done through. You know, whatever modalities there were. In this word, of course, ultimately, and so on. So the journal shifted from a non-digital format for editing to a digital. At the same time I thought it was a. Very good idea. To utilize social intellectual networks, that is to say, to approach people that either one knew directly or knew about, or new art who's work one had become engaged. To get them for right to right for us, so we do have lists of potential contributors, giving them an indication of how the journal is being conceived or envisaged. And we got very lucky and I think part of it had to do with the winds being in South Africa sails. And part of it was just knowing you know who might be electing and constructive contributed to the and so we approached a whole range of people. You'll find their names in the various editions and people like class office. People like Sigmund Bauman, people like Ronald Aaronson himself. Of course, because you know he'd given us the idea and. So among the people who contributed were Pierre Bourdieu and people like Tony Judt. Judt, I'm sure you've read his history of Europe, so we had this staple. If I can look that way of extremely prominent and intellectual. And. Scholarly voices writing for the journal ranging from major Australian scholars. To Canadian scholars. To US, continental, European, et cetera, et cetera. And what this did is it helped to. And spread the word about the journal, because many of the people who contributed ultimately ended up on the list of editorial consultants or people like Fred Dallmeyer for example. So we have this large group of scholars of international. Stature who came to be supporters of writers for and ultimately, you know, peer reviewers for the journal who would also then tell us who was a good person to review which article by whom. So that is really the story of the growth of the journal into what I would call the International Journal that it's become a South African based journal because the editors still remained essentially South African at that juncture. That actually had a global presence and spoke to grow global as well as southern Africans and. Spread its seeds to speak across a number of disciplines ranging from economics, where Johan Pitika, who's now professor of economics at the Penn State University, wrote his article on the economic limit to ethics, which is, is a very interesting. He said it's all right and you know Charles Simpkins's inaugural lecture on economics as a moral science. So we've got a lot of economic, economists of stature and right through it. The purpose never entirely shifted away from South Africa. In other words, one's origins sort of stay with what, as in the case of a human Organism that's growing. Or you know any historical enterprise that evolves? You know the the origins always stay somehow with it and. That was certainly the case with Theoria, so in that respect it was no different from other kinds of. That's really how the journal developed and then. When Lawrence Hamilton came to join us on the start of the University of Natal, as it was known as before, the actual merger into the University of KwaZulu Natal, he became more interested in the journal and. Finally, we got him onto the editorial board. He then became editor in chief. And then there have been. These people stayed with the journal like Lawrence, Piper, Roger Deacon. They are the people who are. If you like the ancestral spirits that run through the journal, and I then decided it was time for me to leave it to the next generation of the editors. So I stayed on in this peculiar role of editor emeritus, which is simply because I had the. I was the person who reshaped the journal to begin. With and then it. Became more interested in more focused on the issues of the so-called countries of the [Global] South. And analytical

category that I have some difficulties with. But let's leave that aside. It is a way of valor on these in countries that have been called. Previously developing countries that have been referred to after Alfred Salvi in 1949 [unintelligible]. You know the. The third world. He was the person who originated the term, the Third World, so we. In a sense, it's role much more with the times, the integration of a country like South Africa into the international so-called liberal order, which of course is now under enormous stress and strain with the rise of these populist nativist authoritarian despotic. Regimes and movements globally, that's another story for another conversation. Exactly what I'm writing about at the moment. But the journal in in that sense has reflected its context and its times. So Theoria, that I had a I had to, not be too modest. I had the key role in shaping the direction of was also. Oh, there the electricity comes back on that's.

Raphael de Kadt

South Africa has this power crisis of a serious magnitude. As you probably know. And there's a shortage of electricity generating capacity nationally, which has been a long time in the making and the crisis now is something. That could have been. And should have been avoided, but since I was not at any point the President of the country or the Minister of. There's nothing much I could ever have done about it, that's just in parenthesis. So to come back to it, the journal has, you know, since flowed with the partners, this focus on the countries of the South reflected the need for something that pivoting. Which the two Lawrences especially were much invested in, and I also was the supportive of and as a result you've got now the journal that is still. Its future obviously is going to be in. The hands of upcoming generations of people. Including I would hope or imagine somebody like yourself and. Perhaps you'd like to? Fire some questions at me, that's the broad. Story of the journal you wanted to know a little bit more about. Maybe I can. Tell you a little bit more about the. If that's of interest to you.

Niklas Andersson

No, I think it's. What we have here is very substantial, so I think it's we can run off it. Off at that. Regarding the journey itself. Have you had the time to look through the questions I sent beforehand?

Raphael de Kadt

You mean the questions in that list you sent through?

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, exactly that PDF file sent a while back.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, let me have a look.

Niklas Andersson

I we can go through them in in a short note because you already had already have spoken about.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, I'm just looking at them in front of me at the moment.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, yeah. You have already spoken about the theme.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, well, the themes the themes really for the most part came to suggest themselves as times unfold as particular either.

Raphael de Kadt

Either major intellectual events or developments took place. For example, the increasingly loud voice of the postmodern moment was something the journal you know picked up and dealt with the collapse of the state socialist system again. Something that shaped many of the themes you know state versus market. The issue of the nature of democracy came of course to play an extremely important role. And the stating market thing. Actually, the one that I happened to take off the shelf just to show you the design has an article by me and it's on Dave Bratton and the Reclaiming this political economy. In other words, the whole question of the extent to which economics. Which began this political economy, and then you know, split it off more and more into subspecialties of economic science needed perhaps to recapture some of its original and political economy character to the economy outside of equality is unimaginable. States with art markets and imaginable, just as markets, especially with art, states to regulate the unimaginable. So those are the kinds of themes. And then you ask me about my own opinion here. Well, let me just go back to the beginning. You want to know something about myself? Very briefly, I'm an unusual character if I can put it that way. My late father was a refugee from Nazi Europe. He fled from the Netherlands on the 10th of May 1940, when Hitler's forces invaded the Netherlands. He was a chemical engineer by training. In fact, at the time ran the largest consulting industrial chemistry and chemical engineering company in Europe in the fields of edible oils and fats. And his brother was the editor of a journal that also gave me ideas for Theoria. Called the Northern. A Dutch journal which featured articles by people like Simon Vile [unintelligible] and numerous others ranging in intellectual scope from James Burnham. You know, the managerial revolution through to. As I said, articles. Simon Vile, he himself. Wrote that he substantial books published this journal called in the Kernel until the Second World War, was the leader of the Independent Socialist Party in the Netherlands, which had broken away from the Communist Party. He'd been to those Moscow conferences in 1924. And he'd engaged in acrimonious debates with the Leninists, and you know people like Bordinger and Gramsci at those conferences and he broke away and. They formed the Independent Socialist Party. The Socialist should not pay the Netherlands and I don't know if you speak Dutch. But I'm sure you'd be able to read it. It's very easy. It's so cognate to German, and Afrikaans will have better. And indeed, the Swedish would be. Yeah, I find that Swedes can generally read Dutch very easily. Germanic language anyway. He was also for a brief while jailed as a political prisoner for having stoked a strike in the German in the Dutch Navy in the early 1900s. And while in three months of prison he had a very good time because the prison doctors amended his party, so the doctor said he was a very sick man and he never been there in his life once and went on into his 90s. There was a quite a biggish Wikipedia entry. On anyway, because he was both Jewish and the socialist seen by the Gestapo as a Jewish Marxist, he was the second most wanted man in Poland. So my father went to his laboratories, packed 5 capsules of cyanide. For each member of the family. And it was clean and they each put the cyanide capsule in their pockets and they went to. Abraham the harbour and then half The Hague and boarded a fishing boat and the captain was initially not keen to take these Jewish refugees because there were them and some others as well. And then the the sailors actually threatened to revolt and stopped working, so his hand was forced and definitely did agree, and so they sailed across the North Sea to England at night and were stopped. About you know 50 kilometers or whatever off the Dutch coast by

a. German U-boat. Which surfaced on its lights on the fishing. Fuller and the skipper very honestly, honorably rather not honestly but honorably said all we've all we've gotten hold of fish. You know, it's a good time to catch the eels. And this U-boat, then we're down to the water again and they continue to. To Britain to and then after three months in Britain because they were Dutch and not British, my father had put some money there before and just in case, and they then took the boat to the Netherlands, East England to Java. And my father was at that point made the chief chemist in the Dutch Navy, and his brother became a member of the Dutch intelligence. The Japanese invaded Indonesia and all the members of the family apart from my father were captured. My father got on a boat that took him and a whole of other people to Australia and if you want to read about that, there's a famous book and a Hollywood movie about it called the story of Doctor Wassell. The story of Doctor Wassell, where being typically American, the ghost writer makes Doctor Wassell to be the hero of the story. But the real hero was the captain of the boat. As my father insisted, he was always grumpy about the story of Doctor Watson because he's so Americanized, it and the US looked or they made an American look like he was the real hero, was the real hero, was an ordinary Dutch ship's captain who negotiated the the very dangerous passage to Australia. They arrived there and some of the story is actually interesting to read for them. These and my father then spent the rest of the war mostly in Australia but came to South Africa via Calcutta, called Potter to do wartime secret work because he worked very closely with the British lubrication researchers in Melbourne, University of Melbourne. Which was led by Lord Bowden, whom the British had actually transported to Australia. So that their lubrication research was not done anywhere near where Hitler's armies or Air Force could damage their operations. So just an interesting aside here, the British very skillfully used the then Commonwealth to outsource a whole lot of wartime operations that is something that's spoken to in. This very new book. By Richard Overy, the professor of history at the University of London on the Second World War. His you know definitive new study. And it's just interesting that the Commonwealth is used in my mother happened to be. She was of Irish provenance and she happened to be in South Africa at that time and her father had died here, and a friend gave her a holiday and helped her and put her up in a hotel, which was the same hotel into the Dutch Navy had its rooms. And that's how she and my father met. And then after about. Two weeks or whatever. He had to go back to Australia. And he said to her, don't ever think about me again. I'm going to die because most of my work was done in submarines, on submarine batteries, and we're constantly bombed by depth charges dropped by the Japanese. So you forget about him, but anyway he didn't die and they wrote to one another every day for after the name of the. This was 1942-43 and then in 1945. My mother sailed to Australia. They got married there in Perth so just and so they then came back to South Africa as my father's entire family in the Netherlands. Apart from this one brother, the one I mentioned who became a major figure in post war Dutch politics as well representing Holland of the United Nations and various other things, and he was a foundation in the current Dutch labour. Which would be the equivalent in your Social Democratic Party in Sweden and apart from that one brother and one agent on all the rest of the family had been murdered, so he had no family yet, and so he stayed here and then. Unfortunately, when I was very young, aged 8, he died from an appendix operation. 21 days later, so that was the so I come from that sort of background, and I grew up in South Africa and under I have to be honest, very difficult circumstances for me personally, and because my father died before he reestablished his career fully and. My mother was a school teacher, so very sort of modest, very modest life here and I then studied at the university. Of the arts. And they went on to teach at. The University of. Natal and of course, because of my uncles work, I became very interested in political science in political theory and all that stuff. And you know, I then met my wife at the University of Natal. She was a lecturer in Germany. She ultimately ended up what we would call in America. The University of Johannesburg, as well as other

universities, and she's a linguistics and German studies and origin. So really that's my life story. Apart from you stuff that you can find, I've written the lectures that I gave, which I'm sure Lawrence can tell you much more about and give you a more honest assessment of. But I. I will speak to the students to judge, not for me to judge. And Roger Deacon indeed was one of my students. And if you want to know anything about me as a professor in the lecturer, you can you. You'll get a much better sense from the two from Laurence Piper and from Roger. You can. Who both of whom I have to say were brilliant, brilliant students. So I was if I did anything valuable which is not significant. One is always blessed if one has brilliantly clever students, so I was just. I was very blessed with the students. I had. Duncan Reeves [unintelligible] was one of them. Roger Deacon was another Laurence piping yet another. And so I was a very lucky professor. I had very good students. And some very good black students. As well, but I couldn't. I tried to get and this is just an interesting parenthetical notes. I tried to get some very bright young black guards who work as potential future editors. Of Theoria, but. They went off ,specifically a guy called Hamilton Minecci. They went off to become much more. Valuable people in society and academics, namely in the case of one Social worker and activist. In the case of Hamilton, a very distinguished senior lawyer, he's one of the most eminent lawyers in South Africa, so I couldn't unfortunately keep an academia it doesn't provide enough by way of a good standard. OK, that's. And you know that's. Just brackets. Yeah, OK, so that's my story, my biography. It's also partly wanted to speak to is because of my background. I had a very strongly cosmopolitan internationalist orientation. That's why I wanted to do Theoria. Part of being a local drag, so to speak, which has become and. To some extent, take it back to its origins, but in a way that was more appropriate to the 1990s and the 2000s. So that's really it. And then for the rest, well, I I've got some ideas that I want to share with the current editors and whoever replaces Lawrence Hamilton. I suspect it might well be Laurence Piper, about new things that the journal would. Make up not least some of the things I mentioned about the shifting contours of the global political system in the political economy, but that's it. And so I. Think the journal could perhaps sort of recalibrate the way it addresses the certain countries of the something by looking at some of these broader global tectonic shifts, but you know, as Emeritus editor, I do try to keep as far away as I can from influencing. What the current editors do. What I have done is write the occasional thing like the one I'm holding up here. That one there just to show that I'm still alive and I can still write and that you know, my brain hasn't quite ceased to exist, as Engel said that Marx's graveside, the greatest living thinker, has ceased to think. I'm not the greatest living thinker by any measure, but I still can kind of think. OK Nicholas any other?

[Here we talked about sending a picture of the logo from the journal and phone numbers were exchanged so I removed this section.]

Niklas Andersson

All right? Just another thing that when I want to have is it possible you have some perhaps secondary sources for what you have told me today or something I I can?

Raphael de Kadt

I think probably the best is to if you can find them online through your university to go through the editions the various editions of the. Because one of the things I didn't mention again the third challenge and I forgot to mention that perhaps worth noting. The third

challenge was making sure that we had enough copy to put out for good addition. That wasn't always as easy as one might imagine. You know it took some time before we got to the point where we actually, you know, we're in the position to turn things dark. Which and the other thing was that we opted for more and probably worth noting because we got a lot of support from the late Zygmunt Bauman. He had the view that editors have to edit, not in the way that. Mobbs mobility [unintelligible] of the University of Natal, Preston, but in the sense of conceptualizing and driving and if you like shaping a journal rather than being passive. And his criticism was that a lot of the peer reviewing processes now make journals very passive receptacles. So you have the and it's a tricky one, because I think there's something to be said for both. Certainly in the economic science and politically economy scientific stuff. The conventional peer review process tends to produce a better article. I certainly found that, but sometimes good things also get lost that way, especially original things that break from convention. The editorial thing, the editorially driven one gives much more scope for. Creativity, but there are fewer checks on the quality of or. There are potentially fewer checks, so we did go through the peer reviewed. But it was a combination of editorial, driving and peer reviewing for what I might call quality assurance. And there were times if you've got an article from Robert Paul Wolff, which we did, and it's kind of difficult to find anybody who can peer reviewers, philosopher of his caliber, or. You tend to take a very light. Hand to the. Not because of the big name because of the essential quality of what comes through. What comes through is something of the very first order you get a piece of class office and it's a. It's an outstanding piece of work just by nature.

Niklas Andersson

But do you suggest I should look through older copies of Theoria For more information?

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, if you. Can find some online. They should be. From the time I took over, there began the first few were the University of Natal Press and then the rest. Up until now have been Berghahn.

Niklas Andersson

But I need. Sources that are not connected to Theoria necessarily, some something that talks about Theoria, maybe old articles or something you know of other journals have spoken about you or other people that are not connected.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, that's so. I think the personally editing can give you the most useful stuff on that probably is Roger Deacon.

Niklas Andersson

Right, yes, I just need information. Secondary source that that I can collaborate when I am making the entry because Wikipedia demands that. You have.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, I'm aware. Of that, and I'm just thinking of. I suppose the archives of the University of Natal presses it was, which is our entrance. They would certainly have quite a lot of stuff. Because we got. I mean, there was quite a lot of resistance when I first took over. It wasn't easy. There were conservative interests in the university that were hostile. There was also the then vice chancellor who was an accountant. By training and she was initially very hostile,

and I had to work very hard to win her over, so I don't know if I ever won her over, but at least. To get her off my back. I had a lot of a lot of shaking to do. To get her off my back. So it wasn't as though it was an easy pass. It was actually pretty difficult. And yeah. I'm just trying to think Becky asked a very. I suppose in. A way, because I'm so much on the production. Side of this. Is in the creation side and just looking at the numbers and the increasing number of subscribers, that is what one? Tended to look. At, rather than reviews of the journal. So I must say, I personally didn't take very, you know, I had a sense of what we were doing was. The right thing and. The yeah, I wasn't doing it in a kind of marketing way of looking at. I mean to me the marketing. Signals has been. Another university subscribed as an institutional subscriber or the OR the journal started to break even, which was a very important point. For a while Marion. Their plan carried it as a loss leader. And then it started and then we started to get a little bit of money coming into the journal so. We could do things with that money. So that and that I told you exactly when that was that was during my period as editor in chief, and we suddenly had that aha. You know this journal was actually not making money that we're getting, and I just wish it was null because. Of the dollar. Being so strong. So I hope I've given you enough.

Niklas Andersson

Yes, it's a plethora of information here.

Raphael de Kadt

And just feel free to come. Back to me at anytime for purpose.

Niklas Andersson

And that's what I'm kind of hoping to do, actually, because I need to go through all this information and collaborate it, as I said, and then maybe ask some follow up questions to clarify something if that's OK. In the future.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, fantastic and I'm sure that Berghahn will also give you some. Information as well.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, that's very good. I didn't really thought about contacting them, but it seems that's the wise thing to do.

Raphael de Kadt

I don't think Marion is still around, you know she was her daughter-in-law. That I think is the principal person. But if Marion is still on the circuit, she'd be quite an oldish person now because she's certainly quite a bit older than I am, but it would certainly. I think she would probably be. Well pleased, especially if you sort of began with, you know, the amazing gamble which she took, which ultimately started to pay off. And then she took a risk and.

Niklas Andersson

Yes, so that's fantastic.

Raphael de Kadt

And which will actually just. In their emphasis, again, very good for us as editors, and for me, especially because it put pressure on me to make sure. That this thing? Succeeded because in a way I owed it to her to produce a journal that was good, and that you know, in a sense,

justified the risk she was taking. And say Ronald Aaronson, in fact, somebody that you might want to connect on with on this is Ronald Aaronson himself. Because he wrote that he was never on the editorial board and he could see it as a journal emerging from another country.

Niklas Andersson

All right?

Raphael de Kadt

And it's a pity Tony Judt died of motor neuron disease because he had been somebody again very well. Asking as some of the people of course would have given the best responses are. Audit, including Bordeaux and Barman. And off the I believe. And of course they were more senior people. That's why we worked to get them to contribute because that it's also a question of reputation. Like I mentioned, the New York review of books and its reputation. Was something that was built up by. The people who wrote for it. And so, so I think we tend nowadays with the more mechanical approach to. Editing and publishing. We tend to forget how reputational statuses came about in the. First place. Which might be a useful insight. I'd contact Berghahn. I'd contact Ronald Aaronson. At Wayne State and Roger Deacon would probably be the best. Yeah, he's got a fantastic managerial secretarial.

Niklas Andersson

Yes, I'm supposed to interview [Roger deacon] tomorrow if he is available.

Raphael de Kadt

Yeah, or he'll be very useful. And then the other thing, just by the way you might want to follow this up. We had to get accreditation with the major accrediting entities like the one again that. We worked very hard to get accredited by I forgotten at the moment which is British based, and we got a credit that was very important. We also had to get South African SAC. Work creditation which we got. I suppose that in. A way would speak to some extent to the inception of the journal, but not the presentations that we applied for. The one that didn't come around than I wanted. It I'm not. Quite sure what the status is now as the. Say which is also problematic because it's caught up with the commercial interests of comes. So yeah, I think I think. That's probably given you about as much as I can in one go, and I'm happy to chat again and very nice to meet you virtually.

Niklas Andersson

Of course.

Raphael de Kadt

I mean, I wish I could offer you some good coffee and a nice look here. Or whatever you like.

Niklas Andersson

Of course, it's so far away. South Africa from Sweden so.

Raphael de Kadt

Well, we're far away we're. Close, I mean you, I think you've got a. Clearer view of my study than I have. Of you all. You've got more bouquet, which is nice, actually. See your face better. But if I was on that. You could see my face and the background get, OK Nicholas. Any last question?

Niklas Andersson

No, I think I will retreat now and go through it all and compose it. Well, I'm going to the whole intro won't be on Wikipedia because it's too long. It will be compressed somewhat, but the whole into it. Suppose I can put it up on some blog, perhaps that is connected to Theoria so it will. The entirety will be on there, so it's for all to see as I'm going to edit, of course, so it's more suitable, but on them to itself it will be more compressed because.

Speaker

And of course.

Niklas Andersson

Space constraints.

Raphael de Kadt

With Wikipedia also doesn't like something to look like an editorial. So the ones. Actually got to make it look objective.

Niklas Andersson

Exactly, so I'm going to.

Raphael de Kadt

You can think. Of criticisms of the journal as well, that'd. Be very useful. To find people who've got criticisms too much. Because you know, if you've been developing something, you live in the bubble that you're blowing around blowing out around. It's very useful to have somebody poking from outside and. Have it pop.

Niklas Andersson

Yes, thank you for your time.

[This section of the discussion was removed because it involved the subject of politics.]

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, yes, take care.

Raphael de Kadt

Lovely to have met you online.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, I'm just going to stop recording now and then. We can. Leave the room. Let's see here.

Interview 2

Interview with Lawrence Hamilton for Theoria

Transcribed version

2022-10-27

Niklas Andersson

I have made minor edits throughout the transcribed text to help with readability. Things that were removed are repetitions of words that occur naturally in speech. And I corrected misspellings of names or words and added [unintelligible] to certain parts of the text where I could not understand what was being said or make a correct spelling of what was being said. One section of the interview was also removed for privacy reasons because it involved the potential for monetary work.

Transcript

Niklas Andersson

Well, yeah. All right, have you had a chance to look through the questions I sent you?

Lawrence Hamilton

Yes, and.

Niklas Andersson

Uh, I think that we don't need to actually go through your personal biography because you all have a Wikipedia page, so that's plenty of information.

Lawrence Hamilton

OK, perfect.

Niklas Andersson

Or if you want to add something, you could.

Lawrence Hamilton

Well, I don't need to say anything about one because you know all about me on the Wikipedia page. I could say something about it. Maybe you know this already, but I started at Theoria in 2009. I basically responded to an advertisement and became editor in chief. As a result, So I've the whole time I've been. Editor: I've been editor in chief. and that's going to change at the beginning of next year.

Niklas Andersson

And yes, I've already spoken to Raphael De Kadt and Roger Deacon this week, and Raphael gave me a very substantial retelling of history.

Lawrence Hamilton

He knows it based, yeah.

Niklas Andersson

So that's very good. I think you could perhaps tell me today what happened after he left and perhaps speak about how Theoria has evolved since then.

Lawrence Hamilton

Sure, so. It's thanks to him really that I was tempted into this long position and and then so I I inherited a journal from him that was doing. You know quite well that it was doing well locally but didn't really have a particular niche globally, and I thought that that was partly a result of the fact that it didn't really have a very good niche that it was filling. So instead of I should say just to premise or to caveat this what I'm about to say. One of the attractions of Theoria is its history of having come in come out of a broader humanities journal and and so. We really did want to keep it as a broad social and political theory journal. And it has. It has more or less stayed like that. With a little bit more of a focus, I suppose on political theory than social theory. But somebody who I've since gotten to know quite well and who, actually, you might want to get a quote from about Theoria is Professor Terrell Carver.

Lawrence Hamilton

He's a professor at Bristol and I'm sure he'd very much. He's a professor of political theory, and I'm sure he'd be happy to give you a quote that you could use on the Wikipedia site. In fact, now that I think about it, if it gives you something nice and glowing, we could even use it on our website. But yeah, so so. And so I inherited this journal that. That had kind of hung onto the coattails of Western, the big Western political theory and political philosophy journals, and Raphael had been very good at getting some big names to write shorter pieces and to contribute to *theoria*. I sort of forgot; I didn't do this immediately, but probably around 2012 2013 2014 net period. I decided that we needed to make ourselves. We needed to create a bit more of a niche for ourselves, and that's what we needed. The first thing to do was to focus on Africa and the Global South. And at least in terms of our marketing, right? So that we got greater submission from those sorts of theorists. Social and political theorists. We were interested in theory of the Global South? Or, you know, the practical problems that were associated with the global south and the relationships between the global South And the Global North. So we definitely took quite a big shift around that period. We still accept it, and we still want to attract articles from normal sources, you know? I suppose global N focused on political theory and social theory, but we wanted to try and build. On a kind of growing field in in the global South. And because the journal is located in the global South, we wanted to kind of try to be a leader in that. And it's been quite difficult. I mean, we have we have succeeded quite a lot. We've changed the UM. Outlook of the journal quite a lot. Uh, and we've increased quite substantially our UM. Submission totals—you know the total of works that get submitted to us, and our percentage of rejections is much higher as a result. And we do publish, and we have published a lot, particularly in the last five years or so. African philosophy and African political theory, so we've succeeded in that regard. We've also, in terms of sort of success stories. We've also recently been in and sort of categorized within the top 20 political theory journals in the world. So that's that's quite an achievement for what was basically originally a journal that was more or less uniquely focused on or uniquely not focused on, South Africa. with the Morinis uniquely as South African audience. So or. So we've been in this tricky process of trying to refocus the the niche. That we want to fill and at the same time market ourselves as more of a globally significant journal. And we, yeah, I mean, I think we've got this latest news that came out quite recently about being in the top 20. That was very good news.

Niklas Andersson

Yes, excellent. Perhaps we could talk about that. So, I reached out to your publisher at Berghahn Books. Because I want more information, as Roger Deacon suggested, I could perhaps make a list of academics from the Global South who have published in *Theoria* and try to showcase them on Wikipedia. He thought that it was a good idea. So perhaps, maybe talk about how you choose which? How does the process look? For those academics who want to publish, perhaps global stuff? How do you pick them? Or how is it advertised to them, so to speak?

Lawrence Hamilton

So what we did is we changed. I don't know exactly when; you'd have to ask Bergen exactly when, but we changed the description of the journal on our website. And so there is now a journal that says quite early on that we're very interested in Africa, or the global south, in relations between the global south and the global north. And then it also says, but we remain completely open ideologically, and we also we still remain open to submission from anybody anywhere. So just add to what Roger said. I, I think that's a good idea, but another good idea to give a sense of the longevity of theoria, and to give a sense to also. Something that I haven't done for you but could do for you, especially if you do what? What do you study?

Niklas Andersson

I'm studying political science at university West.

Lawrence Hamilton

So if you're studying political science, you will know some of the bigger names that we have published over the years. And for example. Brian Barry, Jerry Cohen, some big Western names so it might be worth trawling through. It might be worth trawling through the entire history. And not only highlightings. The significant global South authors, but also highlighting some of the big names that we've published. A long period you know from. Over the last 40 years, I'm not sure, did Raphael tell you exactly when the journal changed from being a completely open humanities journal to a social and political theory journal.

Niklas Andersson

He took over in late 80s I think.

Lawrence Hamilton

So it's nearly 40 years, really. It's nearly 40 years that you could look through and pick out. I don't know five really big names that have published with us. Plus, you know some others that may not be as big, but there are big, up-and-coming global South names. Yeah, the other thing that we changed is just now thinking about it. Was that we used to be associated so the journal had its origins in the University of Natal. Which became known as the University of KwaZulu Natal, I think. Around the time I think it was around that time. No, it was just before I became editor in chief, I think, uhm? It became known as the University of Kwazulu. And prior to that, it was a university of Natal. UM, I've lost my train of thought now. Oh yeah, so what happened was we were, because it had grown out of what was the Faculty of Humanities originally in its original formation? Raphael, because he was located there, had not changed

its ownership status. And because a lot of us left the university in 2009 around about 2009 2010. We found it a little bit difficult to sort of continue being associated with the university when no one was actively involved. Roger Deacon has an affiliation there, but he's not. He doesn't do any real stuff. He's not actually there ever in person. He doesn't really do that much work directly with the University of Kwazulu. So what Lawrence Piper and I did is we create and we were going to do this anyway. For another reason, but we created an association called Association of Political Theory in Africa [APTA]. And then we created a company under the same name. And we persuaded the University of Kwazulu-natal then to let us have ownership of the journal. We had to leave some money behind that decays again basically, but we got ownership of the journal. They made the journal independent from any single university. So it's now housed within this company called APTA. And APTA does other things as well. But there you can see an example of what I was talking about, so we wanted to both make APTA much more African focused and also we wanted Theoria to be the kind of main mouthpiece or a. You know Foghorn for APTA. Uhm so. Yeah, it's kind of worked. We, just Lawrence and I've been just too busy to properly get APTA fully off the ground. But it's still a work in progress, but formally, Theoria is not owned by any university; it's owned by APTA.

Niklas Andersson

Alright, and but how does that work with the Berghahn books?

Lawrence Hamilton

So they have a, yeah. Basically it's kind of like a. We have a contract with them. The company owns it [APTA], but they have publishing rights. So it's a relationship between APTA as a body and then as a publishing house. And you were asking, um? I'm trying to remember the other part of your question. What was what is the part of your question that was linked to work on? Berghahn was really great in that process of letting us go on our own, as it were. And they just wanted to keep the journal. At the standard it was or at least make it better. Yeah, and they also did something really great in the last three years, which was to create this knowledge, unlatched. and Open Access. A forum which we are hoping is going to generate a lot more hits, as it were. You know, readership for the journal. We, I think we've only been part of it for a year now, so, uh, we don't yet have the stats on whether the the the going open out access with knowledge Unlatched has had the effect we hoped it would have.

Niklas Andersson

Do you think Bergen has any data about that, or are there some statistics?

Lawrence Hamilton

Yes, one of the reasons one of the reasons I suggested to Sherran or to you that that you talk with Berghahn is that they most definitely will have data they give us. So we have an AGM, normally an annual general meeting, at the end of each year. And we try to get them to get us an annual report. By the time we have the AGM, so in fact I was about to write to them. Quite soon, because we will have our AGM in early December. But you could, and I'm sure you could ask them and

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, I'm already in the process of asking about metadata.

Lawrence Hamilton

They they have a lot of they're quite good on that front. They have a lot of data, you know? I think Sherran holds most of the data around submissions. And rejection rates and all that stuff. But Berghahn holds most of the data. Berghahn has most of the data around. How many libraries buy us, how many individuals buy us—that will all change quite dramatically with the Open Access change because there will be less need for individuals to be. And buying access to the journal because it's not now. It's now Open Access. So what's more important is the readership—the quantity of readers. Has it gone up? Remarkably, in the last year or not. That's, frankly, something I would really like to know, and it would probably be quite cool for you too. If it is the case. It will be quite cool, too. Say something around the idea that knowledge unlatched as this Open Access move has had a good effect on leadership.

Niklas Andersson

Uhm, yeah. I'm just trying to figure out how I should put it in the entry so it's not sounding too much of self-promotional so to speak, but I think I can.

Lawrence Hamilton

Well, you know new stuff, and I know you. You've said this before. You said it quite a lot, but if you look at other entries, it's mainly about the way you word it.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, I understand.

Lawrence Hamilton

They they a lot of the entries are basically self advertisement. That's effectively what they are, but they just worded it in such a way that it doesn't sound too like you know, American salesperson would like. So it's just about clever wording, really. I wouldn't worry. I wouldn't worry too much when you are actually writing it. I wouldn't worry too much about it. I wouldn't worry too much about blowing the horn of Theoria loudly just so I think what really matters with the Wikipedia process is that anything you say has got to be corroborated with some kind of source.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, that's what I want to ask next about if you have. Any more secondary sources that you could provide me with. For anything you told me or anything about history. Yeah, example other journalists have written about you or discussions, debates, something like that. If you could point me in any direction. So yes, more sources is required.

Lawrence Hamilton

I'm not sure I know exactly. What do you mean by that?

Niklas Andersson

I mean other people talking about Theoria who are not affiliated with Theoria. So I need secondary sources. I mean, maybe news articles or something, or the university themselves talks about you or something like that.

Lawrence Hamilton

Yeah, you see it.

Niklas Andersson

Conferences that have that Theoria has been a part of that could be referenced something like that.

Lawrence Hamilton

Yes, OK, so Uh, you could reference us in relation to. Ever since we've created APTA. Is effectively also done by or with theoria. OK, so the conferences that come to mind. I'll just call up my CV, 'cause that's the best way of doing it. The conferences that come to mind. That have been associated and theoria has been mentioned, etc. Are the following.

Niklas Andersson

Does APTA have a Wikipedia page perhaps?

Lawrence Hamilton

No, it doesn't. It just has a website. It would be great if it did have Wikipedia page.

[Here in the interview, it was brought up about the potential of creating a Wikipedia entry for APTA and that it would be paid work, so I removed it for privacy reasons.]

So there are some. I mean, there's been a lot, really, uh, there was a conference that I organized. In University of Johannesburg 2012 Called Empire and Economics. Rethinking state formation in South Africa There was a conference around my book. Freedom is power. In Cape Town. In 2016 there was a conference. Out of which we are, we will be publishing a select papers that took place in Prague. Called Machiavellian contemporary politics. It's the idea is in politics. Biennial Conference Institute for Political Studies Charles University, Prague. 2019 And then there was a 2019 conference hosted by [unintelligible] at the University of Western Cape. Called democracy. Geneologies concepts and practices. There's just a few that come to mind recently.

Niklas Andersson

I will look into those and see if something I could use to reference in the entry. Uh, that's fine. Yes, something, it is enough I think.

Lawrence Hamilton

Let me have a look at that. I want I was just looking through the questions. So you know who started Theoria, why it was started? All that stuff has been covered by Rapahel?

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, it was. Over 1 1/2 hour I think we talked and. I still haven't gone through it all yet, and need time next week to listen to it again. Yes, uh, well I'm not really sure what else I could ask you if you

Lawrence Hamilton

So we've spoken about overall theme historical. Are there any notable events in history, or new social and political ideas? As I say, the main one was or moved towards the global South?

Niklas Andersson

I mean, Raphael mentioned a political change in South Africa was a very strong driving force for the journal back then. But now, uh, perhaps something more.

Lawrence Hamilton

Yes, that's right.

Niklas Andersson

And does something that happened in the 2000s or something. Perhaps or?

Lawrence Hamilton

No, I mean, I can't think of any particulars. I can't think of any sort of particular political event like that. You know, of course, because that kind of change is a massive change, and so. The main change was that I pushed quite hard. Once I took over, to give it a much firmer global South. And actually that came. That change came from me, and then, secondarily, Lawrence. Prior to the, you know, decolonization debates. It started to surface in the universities in South Africa around 2015. So I mean, I I'd be quite keen for it to be highlighted that we were not actually influenced by those decolonial debates around decolonization; we were actually ahead of the game. Right, we were changing our focus in a decolonial type of way. Way back in 2011.

Niklas Andersson

Yes, that's been interesting when you mentioned Lawrence Piper. He's my supervisor and he when he's work on university West, he's works on WIL. Do you know it of work-integrated learning?

Lawrence Hamilton

Yes, he's told me about it, yeah?

Niklas Andersson

Is He publishing in Theoria about this perhaps?

Lawrence Hamilton

Not that I know of, no.

Niklas Andersson

No right.

Lawrence Hamilton

I think he may be interested. In doing so, but. I, I mean the other thing you can do is when you look at global self people. I've actually published quite a lot in theory and myself at least two big articles. One on freedom. And then, recently, one on [unintelligible] by Elena Marchesin. So it might be worth highlighting those because they're both. The real modern freedom one is a very excited one. And Amilcar, Cabral, and Marchesin is quite recent, but it's got a very. It's already got a large readership, at least if I can tell via my thumb by my ResearchGate and academia.edu profile. So I've. I've been quite keen to we have rules around how often you can publish yourself and we all go through the same process of blind peer review. I've actually, you know, I've been quite keen to support the journal via via my own publications, and I'm sure that Lawrence will do the same with this new project of his. He wrote a good article on Rick Turner that was published by us.

Niklas Andersson

I think I read about it actually. Yeah, he showed me a draft of it.

Lawrence Hamilton

Yeah, so you may want to. You know, it might be helpful. very helpful for me, just 'cause I'm so damn busy and. You could you could initially go through the last 40 years and I don't know send me. A list of things that jump out to you. As being the kinds of things you might want to include in that list of five big names, and I don't know 10 global South oriented things. And and listed for me in an e-mail and I'll I'll then be inspired to look myself and then also give you a sense from, you know, kind of older perspective as to. Which ones you would want to focus on?

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, that sounds like a good plan.

Lawrence Hamilton

And then I'm just meeting through the others here, uhm? So you say the article so? So actually the reason that I mentioned Terrell Carver is because he came out to go to give a public lecture under my chair. And he was very interested in Theoria. Uhm, one of the reasons he was interested in theory was because he runs well. He did run. I think he's now taking a step back. He did run contemporary political theory, which is a a good journal in the way. And he's always been fascinated about how eclectic Theria is. In other words. It's not just straight political theory, it it gets quite a lot of social theory. It, uh, maybe not so much. In the last four years, but if you look further back it gets. Quite a large range of articles, kind of from across different disciplines in the humanities, and he found that to be really fascinating, so I think you could get a great quote from him. Both the Wikipedia page and maybe even our website

Niklas Andersson

Uh, do you perhaps have a e-mail to him that could?

Lawrence Hamilton

Yes I do.

Niklas Andersson

I will send him an email and ask him about these.

Lawrence Hamilton

I'm going to look right now too.

Niklas Andersson

You perhaps e-mail this because it's easier.

Lawrence Hamilton

Sure, yeah, sure, hold on. I'll just do it right away.

Niklas Andersson

Thank you.

Lawrence Hamilton

Uhm Nicholas. And feel free to ask me other stuff as I'm writing this.

Niklas Andersson

Uh, yeah, I'm. I'm thinking I think we covered most. Actually I. I mean, for the most historical part, it's Raphael. His statements are what I'm going to base most of the history section on until we get on to the 2000s in practice. Other things we have talked about global South that's Theoria's main focus. It's geared towards. Alright, and perhaps we could talk about how you talk about, Theoria reached 20 top list of. Off the every was it go global. Where was it now, you said? Because I wonder how it's, regarding how it is fighting competitively against other journals.

Lawrence Hamilton

So as I say, it was a. It was a middle to top right ranked journal in South Africa. But globally it was a middle to low rank journal. And now that it's entered the top 20. That makes it. You know middle to high or at least middle. Uhm, so we've definitely moved up rankings, uhm? Are you are you interviewing Sherran?

Niklas Andersson

Uh, no, uh, that's not something I have thought about, but perhaps I should do because she.

Lawrence Hamilton

Yeah, yeah, I think you. I think maybe you should, because she has. She deals with a lot of the, lot of the detail in. In terms of submission numbers, rejection percentage. I'm sorry to be so distracted. I'm I'm looking after my kids because it's too midterm break here, so I just got distracted there by them shouting at each other. What were you just asking me about? Uhm Oh yes. And so she will have. She will have come. Things like, uh, all of the normal sorts of writing indices. The journals you know agency and index etc. She I think she has those to hand. I'm afraid I don't have them to hand. Although you can actually find a lot of this stuff online.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, I found some of it there.

Lawrence Hamilton

She might have the latest information to hand and info. Fact, if she doesn't, uh, you can e-mail. Uhm Janine Directly at Theoria at Berghahn, she might be able to give you some latest indices as well.

Niklas Andersson

Uh, something else we should talk about, something I forgot?

Lawrence Hamilton

So I mean my own opinion, I suppose, is that for me it's been a real pleasure and an honor to be editor in chief for 13 years. It's it's taught me a great deal about the publishing world and the and the world of Journal. And publishing in particular, and and I think it's a. I think it's a great. It's one of our great success stories in South Africa. And so I'm really proud to have led it into this position where it's starting to be much more noted globally. I mean, you can actually ask people in your area of the world. I was just in a conference in Copenhagen where a lot of the people there. We have we had. A, uh, I can give you his name actually. Uh, we published a. Uhm, special issue on radical Republican thought. Quite recently. And and a guy called Benjamin [unintelligible]. Who works, who's a postdoc. And works for the Department of Management, politics and philosophy Copenhagen Business School. But I think he was trained in America or something. He said that he was actually attracted to sending this special issue to us, because in Denmark at least, and he thinks in Sweden as well, Theoria is quite highly ranked amongst your kind of local ranking indices. So you might you could also get in touch with him. Because he might be. He might be able to give you a good quote, or he had a very good experience with this special issue and. And he was an. And you know he's published. He's published with Edinburgh University press. He's published with constellations. He's published with political theory. He's a well published young political theorist doing quite kind of interesting radical work and he found out what we are dealing with. You know, very. Very fulfilling and extremely professional. And in fact, a lot of people have often responded to us by saying how amazed they are at our level of professionalism and also the number of reviewers we get. 222 review papers. And so it's, you know, I'm handing over to Lawrence at the end of this year, but It's not because I, it's not for any negative reason. It's because I've simply been involved as editor in chief. I think for too long and and and and I've also, you know, got new projects and stuff developing out of my chair that I I need to focus on with greater. Greater force and so it's not because I'm I'm not leaving because there's any. Anything negative? In fact, the exact opposite. In a way it's because Theoria is becoming too time consuming. It's becoming too successful effectively and so too time time consuming for me to properly direct. I also think there should be, you know, I don't think people should be in charge for more. Than 10 years basically so.

Niklas Andersson

So, a two term limit, so to speak.

Lawrence Hamilton

22 [unintelligible] [laughter]

Niklas Andersson

Alright then, uh, well, thank you for today.

Lawrence Hamilton

OK, that's great, I will you as I say, you're very welcome to follow up via e-mail is basically around that idea of picking some. That kind of you know that that's that carefully worded advertisement around. Who we are, who we are from? Who we've published and then also reaching out to Benjamin and Terrell. And when you do, you should CC me. Then because then they often these very busy guys like Terrell Carver won't respond unless they've had another Professor CC in, you know.

Niklas Andersson

Alright, I understand.

Lawrence Hamilton

So you could say something like you know Lawrence Hamilton CC in who suggested I get in contact with you because. Be really nice to have a some kind of recommendation or or shout out from you as regards the journal.

Niklas Andersson

Uh, last thing? Have you had a chance to look at the draft I have published? It's it's the in the sandbox mode of Wikipedia. Have you had a chance to look at?

Lawrence Hamilton

I think I did, but come with that.

Niklas Andersson

It's not finished yet, I mean.

Lawrence Hamilton

Wasn't that just a draft? Wasn't that just a very basic structure? It wasn't really full of content yet.

Niklas Andersson

No, it's I haven't really worked on it. Yes, yes, I've been focused on this intus, but, uh, I could send you some something more if you want to see next week.

Lawrence Hamilton

Wait, that would be great.

Niklas Andersson

Yeah, or? Talk with Lawrence or Sherran. They probably have the more latest versions available. Something like that

Lawrence Hamilton

But feel free in IT Class 2 [unintelligible]. I mean I'm. You know, I because I work between two countries, I'm very used to working, sort of on my own, as it were, and I and I read a lot of graduate work on my own and then respond. So if you, if you send me something, the most up-to-date. Version just in Word format. Once you've done these interviews, that would be very good way of proceeding because that happen. Add some thoughts, then letters. In fact, I suspect that in a funny kind of way I might be the best person to pass it by at the end because, you know, I'm the person that's been kind of in charge last. So I'm. I'm not the best person for getting all the detail, i.e., the historical detail or the indices detail or the data detail as it were. But I'm very happy to help you with the. With writing it up in a nice. A nice way and I'm sure when I read what you've written I'm sure I'll have it'll spark things that I want to have input on.

Niklas Andersson

Of course, it will be my pleasure.

Lawrence Hamilton

Great, thanks, Nicholas.

Niklas Andersson

Yep, thank you. I am going to end the recording, and then we can leave the room.

Quote from Terrell Carver

Theoria is the practical journal of decolonization, providing a unique forum for scholars from the Global South to converse with those from elsewhere. It is inclusive on these terms, stimulating in its eclecticism, and rigorously argumentative in the best traditions.

Terrell Carver, Professor of Political Theory, University of Bristol, UK

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