Abbreviated CV Janet Cherry

Janet Cherry was born in Cape Town in 1961 and matriculated from Rustenburg High School in 1979. She completed a BA at the University of Cape Town in 1982, majoring in economic history and industrial sociology, and served as General Secretary of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) in 1983 before moving to Port Elizabeth in 1984 where she established the East Cape Adult Education Project and the PE Crisis Information Centre. After four years of activism, working in human rights and adult education NGOs, she completed an Honours degree in Economic History at UCT in 1988, with a dissertation on the social and economic history of Korsten. While working as a research consultant for the Black Sash, the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (IDASA) and the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), she completed a Masters degree by research in Economic History at UCT, which was awarded with distinction in 1992. The thesis was entitled “The Making of an African Working Class, Port Elizabeth 1939-1963.”

Janet lectured in Political Studies and International Relations at Rhodes University in Grahamstown from 1992 to 1994, before returning to Port Elizabeth and setting up a development and research consultancy, ABC consultants. ABC engaged in research and training for among others the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). From 1996 to 1998 Janet worked as a member of the research team of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and from 1998 to 2003 as a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE). In 2001 she was awarded a PhD from Rhodes University for her thesis, “Kwazakhele: The Politics of Transition in South Africa”.

From 2003 to 2005 she was employed as a Senior Research Specialist in the Democracy and Governance programme of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and from 2005 to 2009 was a Senior Lecturer and Research Associate in the newly formed Department of Development Studies at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). She was appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer in 2010 and Associate Professor in 2014.

Janet has also served as a research consultant to the South African Democracy Education Trust (SADET), the Red Location Museum, the Foundation for Human Rights, the International Council on Human Rights Policy, and the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict; as well as a trainer for the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies, and the Pan African Peace and Nonviolence Network.

She has been involved in a number of international and national research projects, including the ‘Trade Union Democracy Project’ and the ‘Road to Democracy Project’. She conducted sabbatical research on transitional violence at Queens University in Belfast, and on democracy and development at the International Institute for Development Studies in The Hague. She has published widely in the fields of democratization, democratic participation, South African liberation history, sustainable development, gender and human rights, land rights, transitional justice and civil resistance. She has published one book, *Umkhonto we Sizwe*, and a second book on *Kwazakhele: Democracy and Development* is forthcoming. She has supervised three Doctoral students in the fields of cooperatives development, post-war development and livelihoods diversification. Her current research interest is sustainable human settlements, livelihoods and local economic development in the context of climate change. She is an international trainer in strategic nonviolence, human rights and participatory development and has travelled extensively to countries including South Sudan, Palestine, Guinea, Sierra Leone and DRC. Over the decades she has been an activist in many organisations and campaigns including the United Democratic Front, the End Conscription Campaign, the African National Congress, the Nelson Mandela Bay Transition Network and the Palestine Solidarity Alliance.