# Contents

Thanks

## Introduction
Ubuntu Unchained: A Travelling Concept

- Ubuntu, Description of: The Problem of Common Humanity 14
- Ubuntu Strategies: No Outside to Discourse 23
- Ubuntu and Hospitality: Negotiating the Conditional and the Unconditional 31

## Chapter 1
Ubuntu and Common Humanity in the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- Introduction 45
- Ubuntu and the Mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission 48
- Ubuntu, Forgiveness and Nation-Building 52
- Forgiveness and Discursive Responsibility in Antjie Krog’s “land van genade en verdriet” 66
- Re-inscribing the Human: Ubuntu and Common Humanity 78
- Conclusion / Next 84

## Chapter 2
Ubuntu in Transit: From Divisive Pasts to Open Futures

- Baggage: Introduction 87
- Transit I: Ubuntu as a Convergence of Interests in Nadine Gordimer’s None to Accompany Me 91
- The Future Anterior: Ubuntu and the Mediation between Past and Future 101
- Transit II: Embracing the Unknown in J.M. Coetzee’s Age of Iron 104
- Arrivals/Departures: Ubuntu as an Open End 122
Chapter 3
Facing Others: Towards an Ethics of Ubuntu

Introduction 127
Zanele Muholi: Strategic Visibility in *Faces and Phases* 130
Complicity: Ubuntu and the Problem of the “Third” 143
“Hold Back and Observe:” Waiting Differently in Njabulo Ndebele’s *The Cry of Winnie Mandela* 150
Concluding Remarks 160

Chapter 4
“The Ubuntu Strategy”: Commodification and the Affective Politics of Ubuntu

Introduction 165
Strategy and Stickiness: Affect and Group Formation 172
Ubuntu on the Market: Affect in Commodifications of Ubuntu 177
Tactics: Ubuntu as a Space for Redefinition 187
A New Space for Politics: Ubuntu and “the Poor” 192
Strategic Tactics and Tactical Strategies: Ubuntu as Politics in Abahlali baseMjondolo (The Durban Shack Dwellers Movement) 196
Concluding Remarks 204

Afterword 208
Bibliography 214
List of Figures 230
Appendix 232
Summary 237
Samenvatting 243