



## Abridged Biography | Prof Salim Vally

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Salim Vally is the director of the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (CERT), a professor at the Faculty of Education, University of Johannesburg, the DHET-NRF SARCHI Chair in Community, Adult and Workers' Education (CAWE) and a visiting professor at the Nelson Mandela University.

He studied at the universities of York, Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal and was a visiting lecturer at Columbia, Virginia, York and Fort Hare universities. He continues to publish extensively while agreeing with Howard Zinn that "most academics publish while others perish" and therefore continues with his abiding interest in linking academic scholarship with societal concerns, community participation and global solidarity.

Vally was a leading member of the Black Consciousness aligned South African Students Movement in 1976/1977 and left the country after its banning by the erstwhile apartheid regime and after severe repression. He returned to South Africa in 1982, taught at secondary schools and worked for progressive literacy organisations. From 1985 to 1994 he was the education officer for a trade union.

His scholarly interests include education and social policy as these relate to social class, anti-racism, social justice, human rights and democracy; critical and liberatory pedagogies; and extensive involvement in participatory action research and transdisciplinary and comparative approaches to critically examining education policy and practice.

Vally also serves on the boards of various local professional and non-governmental organisations, and is active in various social movements and solidarity organisations. He tries to live by the Freirian leitmotif of the Centre he directs: "Reading the Word and the World, Changing the Text and the Context"

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