Appendix

Background of the participating schools

In each of the schools, I held an interview with the headmaster to obtain background information. On the basis of this the following profile of the schools can be sketched:

- **School A**: during the apartheid era this was an all white school. It transformed into Model C school in the 1990s. The learner population (of 1200) is now 97% black/isiZulu-speaking. The medium of instruction is English. The school is based in an urban area not far from the city centre. This is a historically white working-class area, that today is increasingly populated by upwardly mobile black African families (Piper 2010: 9). The school is attended by learners from a large geographical area: city suburbs, local townships and even more rural areas. The socio-economic status of learners is extremely varied, from upper class to impoverished, orphan backgrounds. The average, however, is (lower) middle class. According to the headmaster, in terms of status and educational quality it is considered an advantaged school, but not an elitist one. The annual fee is 7000 ZAR (South African Rand, approx. 700 Euro)\(^66\). Teachers have diverse backgrounds, but the majority is white.

- **School B**: This is a formerly ‘HoD’-school, which means it was historically only open for South Africans of an Indian background. Nowadays the learner population (1200) is 80% Indian South African and 20% black African,\(^67\) with 1 white learner. It is located in a more impoverished part of the historically Indian residential areas to the north of Pietermaritzburg. The majority of the learner population come from (lower) working-class families (70%), the remaining 30% from middle or upper classes. Most learners come from the surrounding community, but a minority comes from formerly exclusively white residential areas and from townships. The medium of instruction is English. The annual fee is 1100 ZAR (110 Euro).\(^68\) Teachers are all from an Indian South African background. The matric (high school qualification) pass rate is 95%.

\(^66\) Currency exchange rate in July 2012: 1 ZAR=0.099 Euro
\(^67\) The headmaster proudly pointed out that the school also has one white learner.
\(^68\) The learners I spoke with were the ‘high-fliers’, academically gifted, mostly from middle-class background, and several of them were prefects of their classes.
• **School C:** This is a former DET school, serving an impoverished community in a long-established African township. The learner population (1141 learners) is 100% black African, of which 90% isiZulu-speaking (the remainder is isiSotho and isiXhosa-speaking). The medium of instruction is isiZulu. 60% of the learners live without their parents (alone or with relatives) in the surrounding township area. The learners I spoke to come from relatively stable family backgrounds and have relatively good academic skills. The annual fee is 150 ZAR (15 Euro) and even that is too much for many learners. The matric pass rate is low at 39%. There are 40 teachers in the school who are all black African.

• **School D:** This is a public, historically white girls’ school that became a Model-C school in the 1990s. Of its 1150 learners, 50% is white, 40% black and 10% Indian or Coloured. The average socio-economic status is middle class, with very few learners from poorer backgrounds. Most come from middle-class or upper-class suburbs in the city. Most of the white girls in the focus groups came from farmer backgrounds and lived in the boarding establishment. Some black African learners live in the township but with middle-class parents. The majority of the teachers (85%) are white. This is nationally a top ranking school in academics and sports, and it is well-resourced. The medium of instruction is English. Similar to School A, the school charges additional school fees to provide for the extra resources. The annual fee is 9000 ZAR (900 Euro).

• **School E:** This is a long established (1927) public, historically all white, Afrikaans-medium school based in a historically white suburb close to the city centre. The school has 450 learners. Learners come from surrounding (sub)urban areas or from more rural, farming areas. Because the school is catering primarily for those learners whose mother tongue is Afrikaans, it nowadays still has a 99% white learner population. The teachers are 99% white. Since 1992, it is the only Afrikaans medium high school in the city. Because of declining numbers of students, English as a medium of instruction has been phased in since 2009. The school prides itself on high academic standards and strong Christian ethics. The average socio-economic status of the students is middle-class. Annual fee: 8000 ZAR (800 Euro).