

Jan Marsh, honorary associate at Newnham College, Cambridge, is reading Lionel Cliff Jansen's Classified and Classifier: Tilting at Windmills (Aspect Design, 2013). "Democracies offer the right of appeal against official judgements. In this thought-provoking essay, whose wry title invokes Don Quixote, social anthropologist Jansen - born in South Africa, where 'race classification' abruptly withdrew his community's civil rights - recounts his 1977 battle with a UK university to appeal a degree class that precluded postgraduate study. A second section

dissects the downgrading in 2012 of some GCSE results. Arguably, by sitting exams, students accept the verdict."