

NELSON MANDELA  
UNIVERSITY



Chair for Critical Studies in  
Higher Education Transformation  
(*CriSHET*)

# CriSHET

## Purpose

The *CriSHET* Chair is a strategic post introduced to drive the Transformation agenda of the University by grounding it in critical studies and framing it within the concept of an African-purposed curriculum in view of the current decolonisation debates. This includes being a strategic resource to various key stakeholders, internally and externally, and to support the leadership team, positioning Nelson Mandela University within the higher education sector for strategic impact.

## Vision

The Chair seeks to be a premier national, regional and international site for critical studies and praxes in higher education transformation with local and global impact.

## Mission

The mission of the Chair comprises the study of higher education transformation, connecting such inquiry to critical social justice praxes and the challenges and contestations within higher education against the backdrop of national, regional and global processes.

# Driving TRANSFORMATION at Mandela



*Professor André Keet*

Transformation in South Africa generally, and higher education in particular, has progressed at a painfully slow pace. To address this, Nelson Mandela University has, for the last decade, been hard at work on deepening transformation at the institution through various initiatives, as well as contributing to national conversation.

The work provided impetus for the establishment of the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (*CriSHET*), to which transformation and social justice specialist Professor André Keet was appointed as Chair in 2017.

Prof Keet is a leading figure in studying, doing and guiding transformation within Higher Education and brings to the *CriSHET* Chair a wealth of experience.

"Having collaborated in the Mandela University space for the past five years as an associate, visiting academic and intellectual friend, I found the conditions here for building

the scholarly base of transformation work to be the most fertile of any of the universities I have encountered," says Prof Keet.

"People here have been working very hard over the past 10 years at deep transformation in the university space; and the idea and commitment to a transformative university is most pronounced."

Mandela University put forward the Chair as a key response to higher education transformation and decolonisation, and, at the same time, to provide the Chair with the flexibility to do its work as a key implementing agent.

"This requires a disciplinary base from which we can study universities as social institutions and how they can meaningfully transform, based on scholarly research and associated programmes," says Prof Keet.

As Chairperson of the Transformation Oversight Committee (TOC) for universities in South Africa, and a member of the Council on Higher

## Prof André Keet

- **Chair – Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET)** Most recently the Director of the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice at the University of the Free State, an advisor to the Vice-Chancellor and Rectorate, and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for External Relations and Student Affairs.
- **Chairperson – Ministerial Oversight Committee on Transformation in South African Public Universities**
- **Member – Council on Higher Education** 2000-2011 – Director: National Centre for Human Rights Education and Training, South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC); Deputy Chief Executive Officer, SAHRC; Commissioner on the Commission for Gender Equality; Director – Transdisciplinary Programme at the University of Fort Hare.
- **Visiting Professor – Centre for Race, Education and Decoloniality, Carnegie School of Education – Leeds Beckett University, UK**

“If we want to change our universities, we need to do it through knowledge, pedagogy and programmatic work.”

– Prof André Keet

Education (CHE), Prof Keet has an institutional and national view on higher education.

“The cultural alienation and misrecognition felt by students suggests that, collaboratively, we need to put major shifts on the table via knowledge and pedagogical transformation, so that we can respond in a deep, systemised way to the transformation challenges in the sector,” he says.

“The experiences gained and work done in these capacities gel very well with my position as Chair; and as such I am acutely aware of the really good work on transformation within our sector, from within universities themselves, their staff and students, and structures such as Universities South Africa (USAf), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Council on Higher Education (CHE), though, of course, much work still needs to be done.

“If we want to change our universities, we need to do it through knowledge, pedagogy and programmatic work. In addition, equity should function as both a mechanism and outcome of transformation. Our work is focusing on developing transformation capability, capacity, functionality and competencies within the system, whilst advancing the research and postgraduate agenda of the Chair.”

Prof Keet has been working in collaboration with numerous associates from around the world as well as with postgraduate students

whose work is not simply focused on conventionally understood research outputs, but contribute to the growth of the Chair and its programmes within the university space.

His research and postgraduate supervision focus on four areas: critical studies in higher education transformation; social justice, social cohesion and reconciliation; human rights, democracy and citizenship education; and public participation, critical citizenship and democracy development.

## ABOUT *CriSHET*

The work of the Chair can be grouped into three areas:

- The programmatic work that seeks to develop institutional competencies, capacities and functionalities;
- Scholarship that focuses on research and postgraduate studies; and
- Sourcing appropriate additional funding to grow the Chair.

Prof André Keet says the plan is to build a research centre around *CriSHET* as the work of the Chair gains momentum.

“Our research and postgraduate and postdoctoral programme is already very much on the go, we have a popular and highly successful Friday afternoon seminar series in place, a student journal is taking shape, programmatic work is being executed and a dialogue circuit is covering great ground within the university space.”

The work of the Chair includes:

- Leading strategic projects and programmes that develop and implement a transformation agenda and embed standards, behaviours

and strategies needed to bring about lasting improvements and changes;

- Engaging with key internal and external stakeholders, including Deans of Faculties and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in fast-tracking transformation at Mandela University and building functionality and capability within the University to enable transformation;
- Project-managing, integrating and aligning the transformation initiatives across the University;
- Contributing to knowledge production through the publication of scholarly outputs in reputable journals, and presentations at local, national and international conferences;
- Providing conceptual leadership regarding next generation scholars in transformation praxis (NGI and nGAP);
- Supervision of Master’s, Doctoral, and postdoctoral students in fields relevant to transformation;
- Attracting and managing external funds for research into higher education transformation.

## OUR PEOPLE: *CriSHET* Staff and Associates

In addition to its team at Nelson Mandela University and in South Africa, *CriSHET* has nine associates and collaborators from all over the world, who bring different knowledge and cultural perspectives to its work. For more information about our team visit [crishet.mandela.ac.za](http://crishet.mandela.ac.za)



**Prof Shirley Anne Tate**  
Honorary Professor

Shirley Anne Tate is Professor of Race and Education at Leeds Beckett University, the first appointment of its kind in the UK. As a Cultural Sociologist, she is a qualitative researcher interested in intersectional thinking. In her writing, research and teaching she draws on Black feminist, gender, critical ‘race’, queer, post-colonial and Caribbean decolonial theory within her overall focus on Black Atlantic diaspora studies and emerging identifications.



**Prof Michalinos Zembylas**  
Honorary Professor

Michalinos Zembylas is Professor of Educational Theory and Curriculum Studies at the Open University of Cyprus. He is Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, University of the Free State, South Africa and Research Associate at Nelson Mandela University in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation. He has written extensively on emotion and affect in relation to social justice pedagogies, intercultural and peace education, human rights education and citizenship education.



### **Prof Monisha Bajaj**

Visiting Professor

Monisha Bajaj is Professor and Chair of International and Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco, and has previously taught courses on education, international development, and human rights at Columbia University Teachers College, New York University and Stanford University.

She has developed curriculum – particularly related to peace education, human rights, anti-bullying efforts and sustainability – for non-profit organizations and inter-governmental organizations, such as UNICEF and UNESCO.



### **Prof Felisa Tibbitts**

Visiting Professor

Felisa Tibbitts is a Lecturer in the Comparative and International Education Program at Teachers College of Columbia University and Chair in Human Rights Education at the Human Rights Centre of Utrecht University (Netherlands). She was a Fulbright Fellow at Lund University, Sweden, and a Human Rights Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.



### **Prof Verne Harris**

Adjunct Professor

Verne Harris, Director of Archive and Dialogue at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, was Mandela's archivist. He is an honorary research fellow with the University of Cape Town, participated in a range of structures which transformed South Africa's apartheid archival landscape, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and is a former Deputy Director of the National Archives. Widely published, he is probably best known for leading the editorial team on the best-seller *Nelson Mandela: Conversations with Myself*.



### **Mr Luzuko Buku**

Research Associate

Luzuko Buku is a Research Associate in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University.

He is a former Secretary General of the South African Students' Congress (SASCO), the biggest student organisation in Africa. Since 2014, he serves on the Council on Higher Education (CHE), an independent statutory body responsible for higher education quality assurance and advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training. He is also a member of its Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.



**Dr Joanne Coysh**  
Research Associate

Joanne Coysh is an international researcher and practitioner committed to furthering social justice and human rights. Her research is applied and grounded in the experiences and practice of organisations, groups and individuals in local contexts. She has worked in East Timor, Tanzania, South Africa and Ethiopia. She is interested in social transformation, the relationship between theory and practice, how learning can contribute to social change, as well as, different methodological approaches.



**Prof Matthew W. Hughey**  
Research Associate

Matthew W. Hughey is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut (USA) where he also serves as Affiliate Faculty in the Africana Studies Institute; the American Studies Program; the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, and; the Graduate Certificate program in Race, Ethnicity, and Politics. His research focuses on the relationship between racial inequality and collective understandings of race and racism and has published over eighty scholarly articles and seven books.



**Dr Marisa Botha**  
Postdoctoral Researcher

Marisa Botha is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET) at Nelson Mandela University. She holds a D.Litt. degree in Afrikaans and Dutch Literature.

Previously, she was fortunate to be able to conduct postdoctoral research in four countries on three continents at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the University of Pennsylvania, USA and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa. Marisa is also affiliated with Nelson Mandela University as a Research Associate. She reviews articles and books for academic journals and teaches literature courses periodically.



**Dr Avivit Cherrington**  
Postdoctoral Researcher

Avivit Cherrington is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at the Nelson Mandela University.

Her research projects explore hope in the context of education, specifically framed by an Afrocentric worldview on health and well-being. She is a registered educational psychologist with a positive psychology leaning and experience providing training and psycho-social care to children and adults living in marginalised communities or facing adversity. She also conducts workshops on visual research methods such as the Mmogo-method, collage-making and photo-voice.



### **Dr Mohammad Shabangu**

Postdoctoral Researcher

Mohammad Shabangu holds a joint postdoctoral fellowship in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University and the English Department at Stellenbosch University. Prior to that, he was a research fellow at Humboldt University-Berlin.

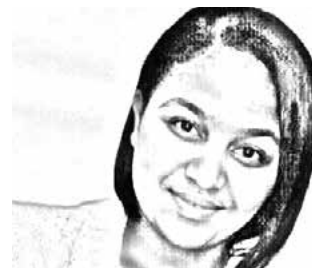
His research interests fall at the intersection of contemporary African literature, postcolonial studies, world literature, cultural studies and social and political thought. He is interested in a broad range of topics, from theories of globalisation to conceptions of state sanctioned legal violence in a post-apartheid context.



### **Ms Awethu Fatyela**

Research Assistant

Awethu Fatyela is an undergraduate student in her final year of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media, Communications and Culture (BA MCC) at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. She also works for the university's Centre for Community Technologies (CCT) as a communications and stakeholder liaison; as coordinator for Decolonising STEM, and contributor in the African-purposed curriculum programme of the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation.



### **Ms Deronique Hoshé**

Research Assistant

Deronique Hoshé is a Research Assistant in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET) at Nelson Mandela University.

Previously, she was the Administrative Intern for the Institutional Culture Enlivening Process (ICEP) project (2015-2017). She is currently a final year marketing student at Nelson Mandela University.



### **Mr Pola Maneli**

Research Assistant

Pola Maneli is a visual artist and research assistant in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University. He has worked as a part-time lecturer for Nelson Mandela University's School of Visual Arts, a graphic designer for a branding agency, an art director in advertising, a curator, as well as a freelance illustrator for various international publications and brands.

He is currently completing a MVA degree in the Visual Arts at Nelson Mandela University, where his research interest is in the performativity of Blackness in the visual arts, special constructions, and indigenous art as a possible means of speaking back to dehumanising representations.



## Mr Pedro Mzileni

Research Assistant

Pedro Mzileni is a Research Assistant in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University.

Previously, he was the Senior Manager for Living and Learning Programmes at Premier Student Accommodation (Pty) Ltd and the SRC President at Nelson Mandela University in 2017, where he completed his BA and BA Honours Sociology degrees. Currently, he is a Masters Sociology student at the same university.

His research interests focus on the political economy of higher education: fees, student welfare, curriculum, governance, and policy development.



## Ms Siphokazi Rasana

Research Assistant

Siphokazi Rasana is a Research Assistant in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University.

Previously, she was the Junior Researcher for the Moments in Time Project led by Professor Rose Boswell in the Faculty of Arts.

Currently, she is pursuing her Honours degree in Political Science at Mandela University.



## Ms Nobubele Phuza

Research Assistant

Nobubele Phuza is a Research Assistant in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University.

She holds a BSc from Rhodes University and BA Honours from Nelson Mandela University. Currently, she is pursuing her Masters degree in Sociology, focusing on gender identities in sport. Her research interests are located broadly in gender and sport, with key interests in social change, time, space and the body.



## Qhamani Sinefu

Research Assistant

Qhamani Sinefu is a Research Assistant in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University where he interfaces with students on behalf of the Chair.

He represented South Africa in the Model United Nations School's Debates in New York and was the National winner of Sanlam/GCIS State of the Nation Address (2010). Currently, he is doing his final year in LLB and serves as the Deputy President of the Nelson Mandela University SRC (2018).

# SEMINARS

CrISHET hosts a seminar series entitled *[Re] Directions/ Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela: Knowledge, Praxes and the African-Purposed Curriculum*, at the Bird Street Campus, where a range of contemporary topics are discussed and engaged on by staff, students and members of the public. Some of the seminars are included here:

**NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY**

*[Re] Directions/Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela*  
Knowledge, Praxes and the African-purposed curriculum

**"Transgressive Performativities of Blackness within the Visual Arts"**

**Pola Maneli**

Pola Maneli is a South African visual artist. His work looks at the components which make up one's identity, how they're constructed, (mis)understood, disseminated and ultimately how essential the meanings we ascribe to these components are when assessing or coming to grips with one's identity. He is currently completing his Masters degree in the Visual Arts at Nelson Mandela University.

**Date:** Friday, 16 February 2018  
**Time:** 14:30-16h00  
**Venue:** Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

RSVP: 12 February 2018  
Beronique Hothe  
041 504 4036 | [Beronique.Hothe@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Beronique.Hothe@mandela.ac.za)  
refreshments will be served

This seminar, the first in the CrISHET Bird Street Seminar Series, is presented in collaboration with SoMAD.

Change the World

A Seminar Series of the Chair-Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CrISHET)

mandela.ac.za





Mutinda (Sam) Nzioki

I consider myself a student of Africa, engaging Africans to face up to themselves, in their own terms. This has developed in both my academic endeavours and work life as analyst of political risk. My academic background involved undergraduate studies on media and African writing through critical theory and postcolonial critique. My postgraduate studies on African politics focused on democratisation, political economy and risk and scenario planning. Presently my research interests have brought all these together in a pursuit to thinking a different Africanity, one that thrives through difficult questions within Africa's complex conditions

Change the World

## NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

[Re] Directions/Ukutshintsha Kwendlela  
Knowledge, Praxes and the African-purposed curriculum

### 'Shit-holing' Africa: Who really gets Africa, anyway?

The outrage provoked by Donald Trump's "shit-hole countries" comment in reference to immigrants of African and Haitian descent, failed. Most retorts showed inadequate comprehension of the implications of this comment for the African humans, and the politico-cultural realities on whose behalf they are raged. A better grasp of this discourse would imply that whilst being rightfully outraged, we should also formulate thought and action that affirms and admonishes Africa *in its own terms*. This presentation invites our community of students of Africa to face up to our claims of knowing Africa, as well as our thinking and doing processes about its future. It asks, is there a right way for Africa to know itself?

Date: Friday, 9 March 2018  
Time: 14:30-16H00  
Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

RSVP: 5 March 2018  
Deronique Hoshe  
T 041 504 4036 E [Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za)  
refreshments will be served

[mandela.ac.za](http://mandela.ac.za)

A Seminar Series of the Chair: Critical Studies  
in Higher Education Transformation (CrSHET)

## NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

CrSHET, CANRAD & Dept. of Student Governance and Development present:

### [Mis]Recognition in Higher Education: Black students experiences



Mr Veli Mbele  
Black Essayist &  
Secretary of the  
Black Power Front

The place of the Black student and the legitimacy of the South African universities is a phenomenon that should be interrogated in light of the recent protests for NSFAS allowances in the higher education sector. Today's South African universities are Eurocentric-anti-Black-patriarchal-violent spaces that retain the invincibility of Black bodies in all areas of human endeavour. The Black student activists, as a younger component of the Black revolutionary intelligentsia, should play a role in universities in continuing the centuries-old fight of extricating Afrika from the talons of foreign domination.

Date: Monday, 14 May 2018  
Time: 17h00 – 19h00  
Venue: North Campus Conference Centre

Deronique Hoshe  
T 041 504 4036 E [Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za)



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## NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

CrSHET and CANRAD presents a round table discussion:

### Leadership during War: [Mis]Framing the Legacy of Nomzamo Madikizela-Mandela

Date: Friday, 13 April 2018  
Time: 14h00-16h00  
Venue: Executive Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New Admin Building, North Campus

RSVP

Deronique Hoshe  
T 041 504 4390 E [Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za)  
Siphokazi Tau  
T 041 504 4036 E [Siphokazi.Tau@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Siphokazi.Tau@mandela.ac.za)

Light refreshments will be served

[mandela.ac.za](http://mandela.ac.za)

## NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

[Re] Directions/Ukutshintsha Kwendlela  
Knowledge, Praxes and the African-purposed curriculum

### Contributions to a Phenomenology of Blackness @ Mandela University



Ms Vuyo Bongela  
Deputy Director:  
Advertising & Branding  
in the Communications  
& Stakeholder Liaison  
division at Nelson  
Mandela University



Ms Zandile Mbabela  
Media Manager at  
Nelson Mandela  
University, within the  
Communication and  
Stakeholder Liaison  
division

Thoughtfully constructed, Zandile Mbabela and Vuyo Bongela engage with the highly relevant and complex singularity of 'the black experience' at historically 'white' institutions of higher learning. Navigating essential notions of 'the black experience', 'the black world' and the 'black subject', Bongela and Mbabela reflect on their own corporeal experiences and craft ways for opening the possibility for a multiplicity of blackness: one within which misrecognition and oppression on the one hand, and agency and emancipation on the other, are in dialectical conversations with each other.

\* See Johnathan Flowers, undated.

Date: Friday, 25 May 2018  
Time: 14:30-16H00  
Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

Deronique Hoshe  
T 041 504 4036 E [Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za)  
refreshments will be served

Upcoming CrSHET seminars will include themes on '[dis]re] locations of whiteness' and the re-imaginings of social solidarities across 'divides'.

A Seminar Series of the Chair: Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CrSHET)



**Kopano Ratele**  
 Professor in the Institute of Social and Health Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA); and researcher in the South African Medical Research Council-UNISA Violence, Injury & Peace Research Unit. He runs the Research Unit on Men & Masculinities as well as the Programme on Transdisciplinary African Psychologies.



**NELSON MANDELA**  
UNIVERSITY

**The world as it could be: African psychology for the inferiorized**

Under what conditions would you consider excellent, or even satisfactory, a thesis that quotes mainly authors from Western Europe or North America? Given the work we do as professors, we read many dissertations in our areas of interests. All in all, many dissertations from South African students, black and white, some of which I am asked to examine and others that I read to keep abreast of developments, are more than just satisfactory when compared to some of the works I have read from universities outside of Africa. However, because of the colonial and apartheid inferiorization of intellectual work from all South Africa, and the internalised inferiorisation that drives apartheid hierarchisation between historically white and black universities, both university teachers, students and administrators often fail to recognise the warped and alienating standards we have set for ourselves. Here, then, is where we find the reproduction of what the cross-cultural psychologists Harry Triandis once said about psychologists and students in Africa: many of them have an inferiority complex vis-à-vis America and Western Europe. While the idea of the West itself and Euroamerican psychology in particular as the standards against which we measure ourselves and our psychological is a key problem, what I wish to consider is how one teaches and learns to do superb and meaningful not in the world as it is but as it could be. I examine how one might reckon with the fact that even while we strive for a world as it could be, a world in which we are reflected in our fullness, that decolonised world is not fully born yet, and we live and teach and learn and research for change in the world as it is.

Date: Thursday, 17 May 2018  
 Time: 17:00 - 19h00

Venue: Council Chambers, South Campus  
 Please RSVP to Deronique Hothe T 041 504 4036  
 Deronique.Hothe@mandela.ac.za  
 refreshments will be served

Hosted by CrISHET, Psychology Department and the Psychology Society

A Seminar Series of the Chair: Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CrISHET)



**Kopano Ratele**  
 Professor in the Institute of Social and Health Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA); and researcher in the South African Medical Research Council-UNISA Violence, Injury & Peace Research Unit. He runs the Research Unit on Men & Masculinities as well as the Programme on Transdisciplinary African Psychologies.

**NELSON MANDELA**  
UNIVERSITY

CrISHET and CANRAD present

**[Re] Directions/Ukutshintsha Kwendlela**  
 Knowledge, Praxes and the African-purposed curriculum

**Masculinity of University**

Until a conversation with a would-be deputy vice-chancellor on why I am personally uninterested in university management, it was ironic that I had never dwelt at length on the kinds of masculinity that a university implicitly or deliberately nurtures or discourages. The irony is that I work at university, I am a man, and I study masculinities. The cultivation of some masculinities and disavowal of others happen in the daily flow of university life, and not only in formal lectures. University managers and professors perform, challenge or bolster of masculinity ideologies in activities such as academic symposia where students are involved, authorship with or without students, supervision sessions, and workshops at residences. Working from the idea of multiple masculinities, and taking off from a teachable moment from a night in 2015 of what was called Azania House at the University of Cape Town during the #Rhodes campaign, in this talk I would like to consider the possible masculinities students might discover or fail to find at a university, where they might find such masculinities, what makes such discovery and failure possible, and what potential is there to cultivate a life-enhancing, progressive vision of masculinity.

Date: Friday, 18 May 2018; Time: 14:30 - 16h00;

Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)  
 Please RSVP to Deronique Hothe T 041 504 4036 Deronique.Hothe@mandela.ac.za  
 refreshments will be served

Upcoming CrISHET seminars will include themes on '[dis]re' locations of whiteness' and the re-imagination of social solidarities across socio-cultural and politico-economic divides.

A Seminar Series of the Chair: Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CrISHET)

**NELSON MANDELA**  
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**[Re] Directions/Ukutshintsha Kwendlela**  
 Knowledge, Praxes and the African-purposed curriculum

**Higher Education for the Public Good:  
 Its Entanglement With Decolonial Possibilities**



**Michailinos Zembylas**  
 Professor of Educational Theory and Curriculum Studies at the Open University of Cyprus. Honorary Professor at Nelson Mandela University in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation.

Two sets of arguments, previously separated in the decolonisation debates, are brought together here to argue that higher education institutions need to rebuild relational justice as an important aspect of social justice. On the one hand, is the literature on higher education as a public good—what this means, what it implies, why it is important; and on the other hand, is the demand for decolonizing higher education—why it is necessary, how it should be done more effectively and strategically. The argument that will be advanced is that decolonisation is not merely an effort to resist processes of colonization that are still going on in universities. Rather, decolonizing higher education is a process that is to the public interest and the wider transformation of a society, because it dismantles the normative ethical and political limits of higher education as we know it, and explores alternative possibilities that promote the public good. Decolonisation should be seen as a wider ethical and political project that concerns universities and, therefore societies, around the globe, and be promoted as a wider and global project.

Date: Wednesday, 25 July 2018

Time: 16h00 - 18h00

Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

Deronique Hothe

T 041 504 4036 E Deronique.Hothe@mandela.ac.za  
 refreshments will be served

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**[Re] Directions/Ukutshintsha Kwendlela**  
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**Whiteness and Institutional Racism: Hiding Behind Unconscious Bias**

Unconscious bias happens by our brains making incredibly quick judgements and assessments of people and situations without us realising. Our biases are influenced by our background, cultural environment and personal experiences. We may not even be aware of these views and opinions, or be aware of their full impact and implications. (Equality Challenge Unit, 2017)



**Shirley Anne Tate**  
 Professor of Race and Education at Leeds Beckett University (first appointment of its kind in the UK) and Honorary Professor at Nelson Mandela University in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation.

This presentation speaks against this point of view by arguing that bias is not unconscious but instead is linked to Charles Mills' (1997) 'Racial Contract' and its 'epistemologies of ignorance'. These epistemologies of ignorance emerge from what the ECU's calls 'our background, cultural environment and personal experience'. As such asserting that racism stems from 'unconscious bias' diminishes white supremacy and maintains white innocence as a will to forget institutional racism. In equality and diversity training 'unconscious bias' has become a technology of institutional surveillance; it has become a simulation attempting to move beyond a racialized reality to where 'we all know better' because we have been trained to participate in a 'post-racial' (Goldberg, 2013) hyper-reality. I therefore argue that it is through decolonizing 'unconscious bias', 'white fragility' and 'self-forgiveness' that we can begin to see hidden institutional whiteness at the base of such bias.

Date: Thursday, 26 July 2018

Time: 16h00 - 18h00

Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

Deronique Hothe

T 041 504 4036 E Deronique.Hothe@mandela.ac.za  
 refreshments will be served

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# Change the World

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