

AFRICAN WOMEN'S INTELLECTUAL HISTORIES:

INYATHI IBUZWA KWABAPHAMBILI

Centre for Women and Gender Studies (Nelson Mandela University), Political and International Studies (Rhodes University) and English Department (University of Pretoria) Presents a Virtual Colloquium:

This program will take place Online Via Zoom Webinar and will be live streamed on the Nelson Mandela University YouTube channel

COLLOQUIUM PROGRAM

11:30 - 15:00 | 09-10 August 2020

AFRICAN WOMEN'S INTELLECTUAL HISTORIES:

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The Centre for Women and Gender Studies in collaboration with Rhodes University (Political and International Studies) and the University of Pretoria (English Department) presents an August programme that seeks to recover memory and re-member women's intellectual histories in the Southern Africa. This August month is a culmination of the CWGS yearlong academic project in archiving and showcasing the biographical histories of the African women thinkers. It infuses history, creative genres of arts and language to centre the works that have been neglected from our maternal intellectual 'ancestors'. This project promotes inter-generational voices on the legacies and lessons for the current African feminist decolonial project.

"Inyathi ibuzwa kwabaphambili" is a Xhosa proverb which means wisdom is learnt/sought from the elders. This project is a tribute to the elders who are often left out of history: our grandmothers. While most people recognise the important role that grandmothers play in communities and homes, they are seldom part of historiographies that is said to shape ideas of personhood, liberation and leadership, which can stretch the imagination of what women have contributed intellectually, politically and culturally. Paul Zeleza (2005, *Gender Biases in African Historiography*) has argued that until recently historians have been preoccupied with political developments, wars and battles, and celebrated "the lives of great men". This obsession with "great men" in our histories has sadly positioned women through their "reproductive supportive roles" with African women's notable absence as part of the "founders" (using Andre Odendaal 2013, *The Founders - The Origins of the ANC and the Struggle for Democracy in South Africa*) in the liberation histories of Southern Africa.

This colloquium is a precursor to a publication which we envision to be ready in late 2021. This publication feature chapters engaging with women who were prominent in political and public discourse and early twentieth century together with contemporary women who are driving the cultural and political imagination in democratic South Africa. This colloquium, and the subsequent book publication, takes seriously the threads of knowledge which have been largely marginalised in both public culture and in the academy. This publication is potentially the first of its kind which will be written by women, centring the lives and ideas of the women whose ideas, actions and creativity is not often located within the broader contestations of their time.

The Author Fridays, colloquium and the broader book project is a contribution and offering in re-reading history and knowledge that flows from 'our mothers' seeking to destabilise the gender inequalities in the world knowledge production globally. This project hopes to inspire future publications which will contribute to further developing and excavation on how women have been shaped, fashioned and contested various African intellectual traditions. It aims to show the threads and the continued struggles which were established in the 1600s and continue into the 2000s. In conversation with the work of other feminists whom we have invited to join in this offering, this list is not exhaustive as there are many women we are yet to recognise and dignify through this project.

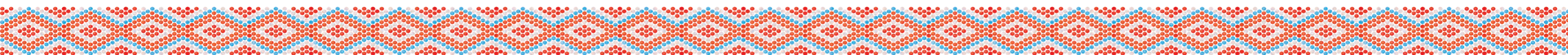
This project is coordinated by Dr Babalwa Magoqwana (NMU), Dr Siphokazi Magadla (RU) and Athambile Masola (UP) who will also be co-editors of the book volume from this August programme.



DAY 1: 09 August 2020, Sunday

11:30 - 15:00 | Zoom Webinar

TIME	ACTIVITY / TOPIC	SPEAKER
11:45	Register (Register in advance for this webinar): CLICK HERE <i>Colloquium will also be live streamed on NMU YouTube Live</i>	
12:00 - 12:15	Opening and Welcome Introduction of the keynote Speaker	Prof Sibongile Muthwa (Nelson Mandela University Vice Chancellor) Dr Babalwa Magoqwana (Centre for Women and Gender Studies)
12:15 -13:00	On Celebrating the African Women Intellectuals Short Reflections from Family <i>Keynote Address: Dr Brigalia Bam (Walter Sisulu University Chancellor)</i>	Charlotte Maxeke Dr Musawenkosi Saurombe (Charlotte Maxeke Institute) <i>Chair: Siphokazi Tau (Nelson Mandela University)</i>
DAY 1: PANEL DISCUSSION		
13:00 -13:10	Video: A reading of "Tongues of their Mothers" by Makhosazana Xaba	
13:10 -15:00	Tracing Women's intellectual Histories Presenters: Dr Nomathamsanqa Tisani <i>A Fortuitous Appearance in History of the Enigmatic Nosuthu MaMtshawe Jotelo, a Nineteenth Century siXhosa Speaking Woman Nosuthu Jikela)</i> Prof Yvette Abrams <i>The relationship between theory and practice: what Sarah Bartmann taught me.</i> Dr Thozama April <i>Pioneers of Black Feminist Thought in South Africa</i> Prof Pumla Gqola <i>Miriam Tlali: Writing Freedom</i>	<i>Chair: Athambile Masola (University of Pretoria)</i>



DAY 2: 10 August 2020, Monday

14:00 - 17:20 | Zoom Webinar

TIME	ACTIVITY / TOPIC	SPEAKER
11:45	Register (Register in advance for this webinar): CLICK HERE <i>Colloquium will also be live streamed on NMU YouTube Live</i>	
14:00-15:00	Introduction of the keynote Speaker Keynote Address: <i>Archiving South African Feminism: Biography and Theory in the Life of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela</i>	<i>Chair: Dr Siphokazi Magadla (Rhodes University)</i> Prof Shireen Hassim (Carleton University, Canada)
DAY 2: PANEL DISCUSSION		
15:10 -17:10	Contemporary Women's Intellectual Histories Presenters: Nomfundo Xaluva- <i>Zenzile Miriam Makeba: A Legacy Hiding in Plain Sight</i> Nica Cornell <i>A Doctor Displaced: Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's Time in Exile 1976-1990</i> Sisassenkosi Mataruse <i>Mujuru and the Zanu Pf Women's League 1980-2014: Opportunities and Limits of Maternal Dignity and Self Preservation</i> Sivuyisiwe Wonci <i>Is it the fall of imbokodo: from the women of 1956 to #TotalShutdown women and beyond</i>	<i>Chair: Dr Siphokazi Magadla (Rhodes University)</i>
17:10 -17:20	Vote of Thanks and Way Forward	Prof Dineo Pumla Gqola (Nelson Mandela University)



SPEAKERS



Prof Sibongile Muthwa

is the Vice-Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. She holds a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and an MSc in Development Policy and Planning from London School of Economics and Political Science. She has a distinguished career both in South Africa, and internationally, working in both development and public sector institutions, as well as in academia. Professor Muthwa currently serves as the Chairperson of Universities South Africa [USAf] a membership organisation representing all South Africa's universities, that promotes and facilitates optimum conditions for universities to operate effectively and contribute to social, cultural and economic development. She further serves on the Presidential Human Resource Development Council. Prior to joining the university, she served as Director General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government [2004 and 2010]. She is deeply committed to gender justice, social inclusion and active democratic participation, and accordingly serves on a number of Boards and advisory structures, including from 2014 as a Commissioner of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, and serving as its Deputy Chairperson from 2017-2019.



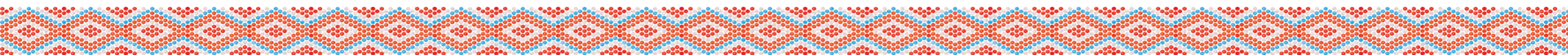
Dr Brigalia Bam

is the Chancellor (education) of the Walter Sisulu University. She is currently a member of the International Elections Advisory Council. She is a prominent gender activist and passionate developer of the young women. She is a former Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission and former General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. She has been awarded numerous international awards including Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation; OR Tambo Lifetime Achiever; Ubuntu Award and many other recognitions. She received an Honorary Doctorates from the then University of Port Elizabeth (currently known as Nelson Mandela University) and served as the Chancellor of the then University of Port Elizabeth (NMU). She Received the Acclaimed Order of the Baobab in Silver 2004, for Uplifting Women and promoting Democracy and is also an author of the book *"Democracy: More Than Just Elections"* (2015). She has also received numerous Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Fort Hare, Unitra (now WSU), Durban Westville (now UKZN), and Victoria in Toronto; CPUT in 2015, Chancellors Award from University of Pretoria.



Prof Shireen Hassim

is Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and African Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, and Visiting Professor, WiSER, Wits University. She has written and edited several books including *No Shortcuts to Power: Women and Policymaking in Africa*, and *Go Home or Die Here: Violence, Xenophobia and the Politics of Difference in South Africa*. *Women's Organisations and Democracy: Contesting Authority* won the Victoria Shuck Award for Best Book in Women and Politics from the American Political Science Association. Her interests lie in feminist theory and politics, collective action and histories of mobilization of women, and social policies and gender. Her most recent book was an archival recuperation of the work of the South African sociologist, Fatima Meer, and she has also worked on aspects of the life of Winnie Mandela. She is a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.





Dr Thozama April

(Next Generation Scholar): Writes on Women and Feminist Historiography with a dissertation titled 'Theorising Women: The life of Charlotte Maxeke'. She is currently working on the broad historiography of colonialism in the Eastern Cape and on de-colonial and nationalist thought. The Charlotte Manny Maxeke Award by the Charlotte Maxeke Institute in partnership with the University of South Africa was awarded to Dr April for her 'ground-breaking research' in documenting the life history of Charlotte Maxeke.



Prof Pumla Dineo Gqola

holds a Doctor of Philosophy (magna cum laude) in Post-Colonial Studies from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München in Germany. She holds two Masters of Arts Degree in Colonial and Post-Colonial Literature with the University of Warwick, United Kingdom and the other was obtained in the University of Cape Town in 2000. Prof Gqola is a full professor in Literature, with specific focus on African feminism, African literature, Race, Class and Gender, and Histories of Slavery. At the end of 2020, Gqola would have authored more than six single authored books, five Journal Special Issues and magazines. She is a towering feminist scholar with 35 accredited research outputs and book chapters while graduating a number of postgraduate students within the African feminist studies. Prof Gqola's recent book *Rape: a South African Nightmare* is the winner of the 2016 Sunday Times, Alan Paton Award and one of the most read and well-circulated books on Rape today. In 2019, she was appointed to the DHET Ministerial Task Team to advice on matters relating to sexual harassment and gender-based violence (GBV) in public universities in South Africa. She has served as Dean of Research at University Fort Hare, a former HOD of African Literature Department at Wits University between and full time Professor of African Literature.



Athambile Masola

is a writer, researcher and teacher at the University of Pretoria. She has a PhD from the University-Currently-Known-As-Rhodes focusing on black women's historiography, intellectual histories and life writing. She is a member of Bua-Lit Collective which is a group of researchers and educators advocating for the use of African languages as a social justice issue. She is the founder of Asinakuthula Collective which is a group of teachers and researchers who aim to challenge the continued marginalisation of women's narratives in the school curriculum as well as hosting the Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture. Athambile has facilitated a variety of workshops in schools focusing on institutional culture reform in her capacity as a partner at the Centre for Being and Belonging. She is a Mandela-Rhodes Scholar (2010). Athambile is one of the creators of the podcast Umoya: On African Spirituality. Her writing has been published in a variety of publications as well as magazines and newspapers such as Prufrock, Sable Literary Magazine, Al Jazeera, Mail and Guardian, Sawubona, The Guardian, online blogs and academic journals.





Dr Babalwa Magoqwana

is currently the interim Director for Centre for Women and Gender Studies and Nelson Mandela University and a senior lecturer in the Sociology and Anthropology Department. She is a fellow with African Humanities Programme; a Research Associate at UNISA, SARCHI Chair in Social Policy and a former president of South African Sociological Association (SASA from 2017-2019). She is the recipient of the National Research Foundation/ First Rand Foundation Sabbatical Grant for her project on “Woman-centred Vernacular Sociology of the Eastern Cape”.



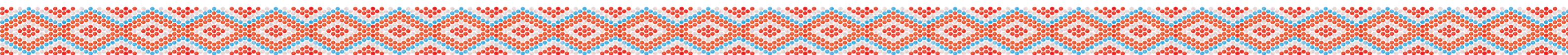
Dr Siphokazi Magadla

is a Senior Lecturer in the Political and International Studies department at Rhodes University. She joined the department in 2011. She worked previously as a research consultant for the Security Sector Governance programme of the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, focusing on the role of women in peace and security. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political and International Studies and Journalism and Media Studies, and Honours in Political and International Studies from Rhodes University. She holds a master’s degree in International Affairs from Ohio University, USA. She is a Fulbright Scholar. She graduated with a PhD in 2017 at Rhodes University. Her PhD examined the state assisted integration of women ex-combatants into civilian life in post-apartheid South Africa. She was a fellow of the Social Science Research Council’s Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship Program in 2013-2014, which provided the funding for her doctoral research. She was previously a co-chairperson of the Rhodes University Women’s Academic Solidarity Association, 2012 – 2013, and the Coordinator the Politics department Thinking Africa project, 2012 - 2013. She is the current Board member and Book Review Editor of the Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS). Since July 2017, she serves as a workshop facilitator of the Social Science Research Council’s Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship Program.



Dr Yvette Abrahams

graduated her Master’s degree in History in 1994 and a PhD in Economic History in 2002. She has worked at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape and consulted for both government and various NGO’s on issues relating to gender equality in policy and practice. She has also published international and local articles on gender equality, queer theory and worked for five years as Commissioner for Gender Equality in Cape Town (CGE). She is currently nominated as an Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of the Western Cape, while she continues to consult for NGO’s in the field of gender and climate change. Her work at present for Project 90 by 2030 focuses on food security, energy, and local government in the context of climate change. Her current research interests are in the field of indigenous economic plants (especially as they speak to economic development and climate resilience) and climate change economics.





Dr Nomathamsanqa Tisani

is a Historian and holds a Doctoral Degree (PhD) in History from Rhodes University. She is a retired academic from Rhodes University and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

She calls herself an “undisciplined academic” as her work and research is in Historical Studies and Higher Education Development. She delivered the 2018 DCS Oosthuizen Memorial Lecture.



Sisasenkosi Mataruse

is an M.A Candidate at Rhodes University Political and International Studies Department. She holds a BSc Honors in Political Science from the University of Zimbabwe. She has previously worked as a Research Assistant for Afro-barometer focusing on elections and political participation. Her Master's thesis examines post-colonial female political leadership with a focus on the political biography of Joice Mujuru- the former vice-president of Zimbabwe.



Thulisile Msezane

is a musician at the University of The Witwatersrand Alumni. She obtained her Bachelor of Music Degree (HONS) in 2017 majoring in Music Composition and Long Essay. In 2018 she presented her honours thesis Lebo Mathosa: Genre as a Compass for Gender Performance at the AFems Conference hosted in Makana. Her academic work and freelance writing material centre on feminist topics in South Africa and in the local popular music genres. The South African music industry like many others has always been a contentious space for black woman trying to assert their talent and hard work. Lebo Mathosa: Genre as a Compass for Gender Performance unpacks how Mathosa was able to take up space in a male dominated industry both as a musician and businesswoman. Msezane's latest articles can now be found on the black woman owned website titled Off Beat Advice where she discusses at length the intersectional experiences of being a black woman in the precarious times, we live in. Her most read article to date titled Unravelling is a vulnerable piece that chronicles her journey of unlearning her own internalised patriarchal beliefs and becoming a conscious feminist.





Nomfundo Xaluva

is a multi-award winning Jazz vocalist, composer and educator. She has released 2 albums under the Universal Music Group. She holds a Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from UCT, graduated Cum Laude with a dissertation titled *The Analysis of the Musical Style of Miriam Makeba* (2009). In 2018, Nomfundo was awarded a full academic scholarship by the Henley Business School where she is currently concluding her Executive MBA. Both a performer and educator, Nomfundo has been invited as an artist in residence at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. As an educator, she headed the Vocal Department at the prestigious Cape Academy of Performing Arts for 5 years ending in 2015. She currently lectures Jazz Studies at UCT's South African College of Music. Nomfundo is the former Vice Chairman of the SAMRO Foundation Board whose interest is vested in the development and funding of Arts Education as well as nurturing the vibrant music scene in South Africa. Having performed in Europe and the US, local appearances include the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, Standard Bank Joy of Jazz, Durban Jazz Festival, iMbokodo Jazz Festival, Joburg Arts Alive as well as an expansive list of corporate clients.



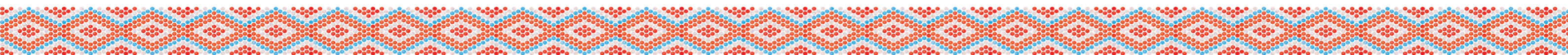
Sivuyisiwe Wonci

is a lecturer at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology Department at Nelson Mandela University. She specializes in health policy, healthcare systems reforms, gendered health systems and the National Health Insurance in South Africa. She is a PhD candidate in the Sociology Department (Social Policy DST/NRF SARCHI Chair) at the University of South Africa.



Lisa Vetten

has worked in the field of violence against women for over 20 years, first as a counsellor and paralegal, and then as a researcher, activist and occasional drafter of policy. She is currently a Mellon Doctoral candidate at the Wits City Institute. She serves as a member of the DHET Ministerial Task Team relating to sexual harassment and gender-based violence (GBV). Her PhD seeks to provide a critical history of rape in South Africa.





Dr Musawenkosi Donia Saurombe

is a young academic. She became a Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial Psychology at the North-West University, focusing on Talent Value Proposition for academic staff in higher education, in 2017, breaking an astounding academic record by becoming the youngest female Ph.D. graduate in Africa, at 23. She worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the North-West University Mafikeng from April 2017 and is now as a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, since April 2019. Dr. Musa lectures courses in Human Resource Management and Industrial Psychology and supervises postgraduate research. She has published academic research articles in a number of accredited scientific journals both nationally and internationally. Furthermore, Dr. Musa has travelled across the globe to present her research at various academic conferences. She has also proven to be a great civic innovator, particularly for the youth and women.



Kholeka Shange

is a Wits University graduate with a Master's degree in Film and Television Studies. She is the cofounder of Be Kind Speak Out, a Johannesburg based collective that uses photography and film to challenge heterosexism in society. She is a writer for the Mail & Guardian Women blog and she is pursuing her PhD in History of Art at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her AGSA project focuses on photography's role in capturing the histories of Zulu royal women in King Dinuzulu's lineage. Photo credit: Patrick Selemani.



Nica Cornell

is a South African writer. Her work has been published online in The Good Cemetery Guide, The Good Men Project, The Frantz Fanon Blog, Mobius: Journal of Social Change, the Kalahari Review and in the first volume of 20.35 Africa: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry. She has published in hardcopy in The Times; Aerial 2012; Africa, the UK and Ireland: Writing Politics and Knowledge Production; Botsotso 18; South African Foreign Policy Review Volume III; Writing Grandmothers: Africa Vs Latin America and Nationalism: (Mis)Understanding Donald Trump's Capitalism, Racism, Global Politics, International Trade and Media Wars Africa vs North America Volume 2. She currently lives in London with her husband.





Nomtha Menye

is a Research assistant at the Centre for Women and Gender at Nelson Mandela University. She is a Sociology master's Candidate in the department of Sociology and Anthropology. She is also the former SRC South Campus premier(2017) Nelson Mandela University and the Founder of Activist Connexions. Her research interests include Eco-feminism and the spiritual significance of water in Africa.



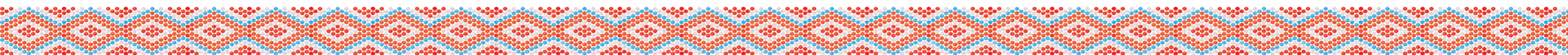
Siphokazi Tau

is a master's student in the department of Politics and History at Nelson Mandela University. She is also research assistant at the Centre for Woman and Gender Studies Nelson Mandela University.



Wendy Adams

is the administrator at the Centre for Women and Gender Studies





Yandisa Jubase

is student at Nelson Mandela University, who currently doing a Post Graduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation. She is a social justice and gender activist and works as a research assistant at the Centre For Woman and Gender Studies, with an interest in advocacy for women.



SPEAKER ABSTRACTS

Kholeka Shange

(Wits University)

Okabani Na LowoMntwana? UMntwana uMagogo and Isizwe

Abstract

In this paper I examine how photographs that represent the multiple identities that 'Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu' embodied throughout her life, may be used as a vehicle through which she may be delinked from dominant Zulu male figures, and the homogenised Zulu nation at large. I argue that as a mother to daughters, uMngalo and a twentieth century Black woman—who was once a child that sat and learned music, poems and indigenous knowledge at the feet of her mother and her mother's co-wives—'Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu' defined herself for herself. Her self-definition which was informed by the guardianship of multiple unhistoricised women interrupts the proliferation of dominant narratives that construct this 'big' woman as belonging to 'big' men of history. Using Toni Morrison's idea of memory, I frame the images discussed as sites of remembering and un-remembering her and the Zulu royal women's histories that are embedded in her narrative. Additionally, I explore how the memory of her as a historic woman results in the marginalisation of Zulu royal women's histories.

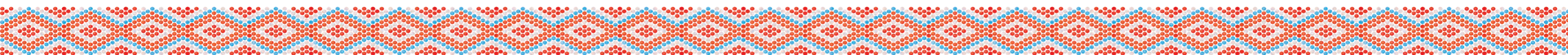
Photo cred: Patrick Selemani

Nomfundo Xaluva

Zenzile Miriam Makeba: A legacy hiding in plain sight.

Abstract

There is a belief in African culture that names have a proverbial influence in the life of an individual. Historically, names given to children depicted the sentiment or circumstances surrounding their birth. Zenzile, derived from the Xhosa word "uzenzile" (you brought this on yourself) was the name given to Makeba by her maternal grandmother who kept uttering this word to Makeba's mother during her birth. Zenzile: A name predicated on consequence. Makeba's life and work reflects the profound complexity of a black woman's journey and place in the world. Here was a woman so dangerously gifted yet so tacitly recognized. To confine her legacy solely to her music is to censor her significant contribution to the liberation struggle and her indelible mark in the creative and cultural heritage of the African continent. South Africa is yet to reach a state of readiness to confront and acknowledge the expansive legacy of Makeba. The challenge for us as custodians of this legacy is to remedy the unjust deputization of her stature to her male counterparts, some of whom departed with the false belief that they made Miriam Makeba. They did not. Makeba's legacy belongs to her. It hides between the notes we sing, guiding our voices gently to a place of authenticity. It weaves in and out of the clicks and cadenzas of African voices the world over. Truth be sung: uSenzile.



Nico Cornel

A Doctor Displaced: Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's Time in Exile 1976-1990

Abstract

Informed by feminist theory, this presentation begins with a brief explanation of what first brought me to this subject. Then drawing on the primary research conducted for my MSc dissertation, this presentation will discuss Dr Dlamini Zuma's work in exile as the foundation of understanding her political and intellectual history. After providing a general timeline of her 14 years in exile, it will highlight some key aspects of Dr Dlamini-Zuma's life: her self-belief backed by a committed work ethic; a pragmatic orientation that prioritised action and change; and her significant experience as a medical practitioner

Prof Pumla Gqola

Miriam Tlali: writing freedom

Abstract

Abstract: Miriam Tlali's five-decade literary career positions her as a pioneering figure in South African letters, and as a scribe deeply concerned with interrupting violent hierarchies. This is as evident in the thematic preoccupations of her short stories, novel and literary essays as it is in her endeavours to intervene structurally against erasure and silencing of Black women and working-class Black people of different genders. This paper focuses on the columns and interviews she published in the first five years of Staffrider magazine, the influential literary journal she co-founded, and to which she prolifically contributed a regular column, short stories, interviews and other intellectual-creative energies. I probe what emerges about Tlali's liberatory investments when we pay attention to this substantial body of work she produced alongside her much studied fictional work, to argue that she makes theoretical interventions into erasure, silence, and regimes of visibility in the writing of Black life.

Dr Nomathamsanqa Tisani

A FORTUITOUS APPEARANCE IN HISTORY OF THE ENIGMATIC NOSUTHU MAMTSHAWE JOTELO, A NINETEENTH CENTURY SIXHOSA SPEAKING WOMAN

Abstract

This 19th century woman, like many of her kind, is relatively unknown in history except for a casual reference to the fact that she is the mother of an illustrious man, Reverend Tiyo Soga (1829 - 1871). Yet she is one of the indigenous women who made a mark in history as she paddled her way through the tumultuous waters at the confluence of the African world and its religion as well as the European world with Christianity as its religion. NOSUTHU easily fits in in the frame of mothers of famous sons as was recorded by the missionaries during her lifetime. However, through her own agency she repeatedly broke through the defined parameters and is thus an enigma that challenges academia to find who she is. In 'exhuming' her, new frames must be constructed, and new questions asked.



Sivuyisiwe Wonci

Is it the fall of imbokodo: from the women of 1956 to #TotalShutdown women and beyond?

Abstract

'We are not mbokodos' has become a trending slogan amongst young women in South Africa. The rejection of 'imbokodo' (rock) as a symbolism that defines women's struggles and resistance came out strong in the #TotalShutDown march. This march took place in 2018, and it was a response to the gender-based violence and femicide incidents in the country. The origins of 'imbokodo' can be traced from the women of 1956 who marched to the Union Buildings against pass laws which restricted women's free movement during the apartheid era. During the #TotalShutDown women's march when the older women chanted 'wathint' abafazi, wathint' imboko' (you strike a woman, you strike a rock), the young women shouted back 'we are not rocks, we are not rocks'! The objective of this paper is to analyse contestations around the symbolism of 'imbokodo' amongst women in South Africa. It will use African feminism as an analytical framework to make meaning of these contestations and tie them to how colonialism, racism and patriarchy continue to produce intergenerational traumas for women in South Africa. It will also reflect on how means of resisting and fighting gender injustices have been shared, rejected and contested across generation of women.

Keywords: Imbokodo, #TotalShutDown, women, systems of oppression, intergenerational traumas, African feminism

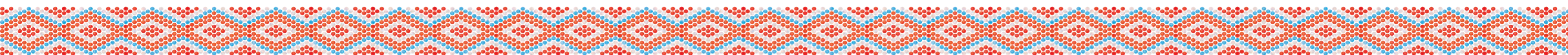
Sisassenkosi Mataruse

(Master of Arts in Politics Candidate, Rhodes University)

Mujuru and the Zanu Pf Women's League 1980-2014: Opportunities and Limits of Maternal Dignity and Self Preservation

Abstract

The Liberation Struggle for the independence of Zimbabwe saw the disruption of patriarchal and deeply entrenched gender roles as women participated in all aspects of the national liberation struggle, including combat against Rhodesian colonial rule. The formation of ZANU PF women's League in 1979 gave women a platform to articulate their collective interests and strategize on how to re-enter independent Zimbabwe. Joyce Mujuru emerged as the only woman in the new cabinet in 1980, she went on to serve the Zimbabwean government in different cabinet posts and ultimately as the first female vice-president in 2004 until her ousting in 2014. The analysis presented by this paper is taken from a semi-structured interview with Joyce Mujuru in 2019. In the interview, she presented the concept of "maternal dignity" as a tool of self-presentation and self-preservation that was important for her as a woman in ZANU PF. The paper seeks to analyze the importance and application of "dignity" for women in politics and how this then translates, if ever, into substantive political representation and participation. This paper seeks to examine the benefits and limitations of maternal dignity to a political female figure in post-independent Zimbabwe. Using Deniz Kandiyoti's theory of patriarchal bargaining, it focuses on the strategies and coping mechanisms employed by Women within the ZANU PF women's league.



Dr Yvette Abrahams

The relationship between theory and practice: what Sarah Bartmann taught me.

Abstract

This paper explains why the older I get the less I have to say. I have always loved the margins, the places where theory meets practice. In permaculture, there is this concept of the edge: beaches where the sea meets land, clearings where forest meets meadow. These spaces are well known to be the most species-rich and productive spaces to grow in. In the same way, I have always been most productive on the edge between logic and implementation, for me, practice is the ultimate truth test. If I am right, constructive change will happen. If not, at least I know where to go back to the theory and tinker.



We would like to thank the bellow listed members on their contribution to this Women's month program.

Naangomso Maqabane! Thank you

Dr Babalwa Magoqwana

Dr Siphokazi Magadla

Athambile Masola

Nomtha Menye

Siphokazi Tau

Yandisa Jubase

Sisasenkosi Mataruse

Wendy Adams

Dr Thomas Hilmer

Pontsho Mabena

Chenel Robey

Asiphe Mxalisa

