



DECOLONIALITY

SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

10th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Switzerland Netherlands
Belgium Ireland Austria

Portugal Spain

DATE: 15 -19 January 2024
THEME: REFLECTION, DISRUPTION
AND THE REALISATION OF
DECOLONIAL FUTURES:
UNISA'S DECOLONIALITY
SUMMER SCHOOL TENTH-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY (2014-2024)

VENUE: Senate Hall,
Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

[#UnisaDecoloniality SummerSchoolat10](#)

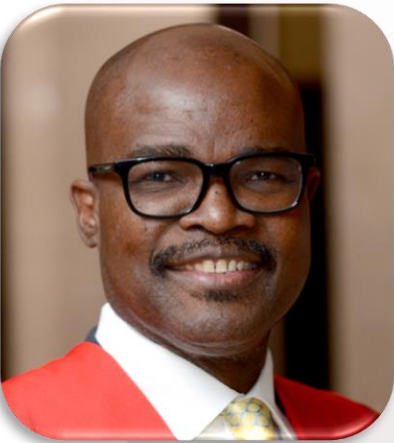


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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Paul Tiyambe Zeleza is Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives at Howard University. Previously he was Associate Provost and the North Star Distinguished Professor at Case Western Reserve University (2021-2023), after serving as Vice Chancellor (President) and Professor of the Social Sciences and Humanities at the United States International University (USIU) in Kenya from 2016-2021. Prior to that he held distinguished academic and administrative positions as College Principal, (Trent University, Canada), Director of the Center for African Studies (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign), Professor of History and African and African American Studies (Pennsylvania State University), Chair of the Department of African American Studies (University of Illinois at Chicago), Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (Loyola Marymount University), Vice President for Academic Affairs (Quinnipiac University).

He received his bachelor's degree (with distinction) at the University of Malawi, master's at the University of London in Britain, and PhD at Dalhousie University in Canada. He started his academic career at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, followed by Kenyatta University in Kenya. In the early 2000s, he worked as a consultant for the Ford and MacArthur foundations on their initiatives to revitalize higher education in Africa. His research project on the African academic diaspora conducted for the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 2011-12 led to the establishment of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program in 2013 that has to date sponsored more than 600 African born academics in the United States and Canada to work with more than 170 universities in nine African countries.



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An interdisciplinary scholar, his work covers the fields of African economic history, development studies, intellectual history, diaspora studies, gender studies, human rights studies, cultural studies, and literary studies. He has published more than 400 journal articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, reviews, short stories, and online essays and authored or edited 27 books and five short monographs. Several of his books have won international awards. His forthcoming books include, *Reenvisioning African and American Universities* (2023), and *The Chronicles of African University Leaders* (2024), a volume of reflections by former vice chancellors of some of Africa's leading universities. He has published two collections of short stories and an acclaimed novel that is being turned into a movie.

A much sought-after speaker, he has presented over 300 keynote addresses, papers, and public lectures at leading universities and international conferences in 32 countries. He has also served on the editorial boards of more than two dozen journals and book series. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Bibliographies Online in African Studies. He has received numerous awards from major universities and various organizations for his scholarship. In July 2013, he was recognized in The New York Times as one of 43 Great Immigrants in the United States. In May 2015, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Dalhousie University for outstanding personal achievement. In 2015, he was a fellow at Harvard University during which he wrote *The Transformation of Global Higher Education, 1945-2015* (2016). In 2018, he received the Thabo Mbeki Award for Leadership. In 2022, he was awarded the W.E.B. Dubois Fellowship at Harvard to work on *The Long Transition to the 21st Century: A Global History of the Present*.

He has held the positions of Honorary Professor at the University of Cape Town since 2006 and at the Nelson Mandela University since 2019. He has served in more than two dozen international and national associations, most recently on the Administrative Board of the International Association of Universities, the Advisory Board of the Alliance for African Partnership, University of Ghana Council (Board of Trustees), Chair of the Advisory Council of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Kenya Education Network. In 2008-2009, he served as President of the U.S. African Studies Association. He has raised tens of millions of dollars for institutional advancement and personal research. He is most proud of the \$63.2 million grant from the Mastercard Foundation USIU received in 2020 to provide scholarships for 1,000 students from across Africa for ten years.



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PRESENTERS



Linda Martín Alcoff is Professor of Philosophy at the City University of New York. She earned her PhD at Brown University after doing undergraduate work at Florida State University and Georgia State University.

Her books include *Rape and Resistance: Understanding the Complexities of Sexual Violation* (2018); *The Future of Whiteness* (2015); *Visible Identities: Race, Gender and the Self* (2006) which won the Frantz Fanon Award; and *Real Knowing: New Versions of the Coherence Theory* (1996). She has published 12 edited books and over 100 articles. Her writings have appeared in the New York Times, Aeon, the NY Independent, among others. For over a decade she has taught courses on decolonial philosophy and epistemology in Spain, Australia and South Africa. She was elected President of the American Philosophical Association in 2012. In 2021, she was named by Academic-Influence.com as one of the ten most influential philosophers today, and in 2023 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Linda Alcoff is originally from Panama.

Go to alcoff.com for more info.



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Lewis R. Gordon is a public intellectual, academic, and musician (jazz, blues, rock, reggae, hip hop, etc.). He teaches at UCONN in the United States, where he is Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Global Affairs and Head of the Philosophy Department. He lectures and is involved in political and artistic projects across the globe and holds appointments in South Africa, Jamaica, India, and France. He is also Honorary President of the Global Center for Advanced Studies and Distinguished Scholar at The Most Honourable PJ Patterson Centre for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy at The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. He is the author of many books, including, most recently, *Freedom, Justice, and Decolonization* (Routledge, 2021); *Fear of Black Consciousness* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Penguin-UK 2022); *Black Existentialism and Decolonizing Knowledge: Writings of Lewis R. Gordon*, edited by Rozena Maart and Sayan Dey (Bloomsbury, 2023); and “Not Bad for an N—, No?!” «Pas mal pour un N—, n'est-ce pas?» (Daraja Press, 2023). His accolades include the 2022 Eminent Scholar Award from the Global Development Studies division of the International Studies Association.



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Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni is currently Professor and Chair of Epistemologies of the Global South with Emphasis on Africa and Vice-Dean of Research in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth in Germany; Professor Extraordinarius in the Department of Leadership and Transformation (DLT) in the Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Office at the University of South Africa (UNISA); Professor Extraordinarius at the Centre for Gender and African Studies at the University of Free State (UFS) in South Africa; Honorary Professor in the School of Education (Education & Development Studies) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa; Research Associate at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in South Africa; Research Associate at the Department of Political Science at the University of Pretoria (UP) in South Africa; and Research Associate at The Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies at The Open University in the United Kingdom. Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni is a prolific scholar with a hundred publications including more than 20 books to his name. His latest publications include *Epistemic Freedom in Africa: Deprovincialization and Decolonization* (Routledge, 2018); *Decolonization, Development and Knowledge in Africa: Turning Over A New Leaf* (Routledge, 2020); *Marxism and Decolonization in the 21st Century: Living Theories and True Ideas* (Routledge, 2022) co-edited with Morgan Ndlovu; and *Beyond Coloniality of Internationalism: Reworlding the World from the Global South* (CODESRIA Book Series-in press).

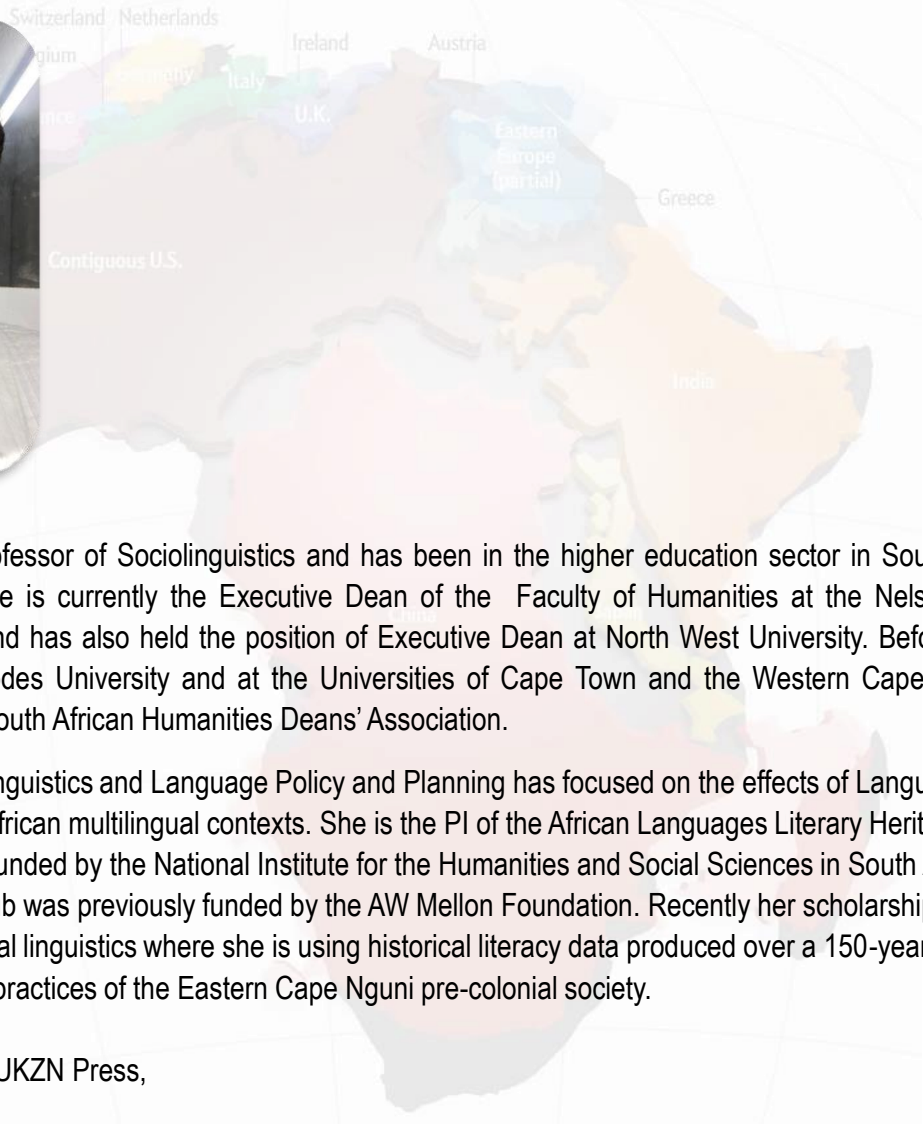


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Pamela Maseko is a Professor of Sociolinguistics and has been in the higher education sector in South Africa for about three decades. She is currently the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and has also held the position of Executive Dean at North West University. Before that, she was a researcher at Rhodes University and at the Universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape. She is the current President of the South African Humanities Deans' Association.

Her scholarship in Sociolinguistics and Language Policy and Planning has focused on the effects of Language and planning in education in African multilingual contexts. She is the PI of the African Languages Literary Heritage Research Hub presently funded by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences in South Africa (NIHSS). The research hub was previously funded by the AW Mellon Foundation. Recently her scholarship has extended to socio-historical linguistics where she is using historical literacy data produced over a 150-year period to investigate socio-cultural practices of the Eastern Cape Nguni pre-colonial society.

She has published at the UKZN Press,



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Artwell Nhemachena is a visiting Associate Professor at Kobe University; a Research Fellow at the University of South Africa and he lectures at the University of Namibia. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology, MSc in Sociology and Social Anthropology and BSc Honours Degree in Sociology. He has published over 20 books and over 80 book chapters and journal articles in the areas of security, environment, development, food security and food sovereignty, futurology, sociology of anticipation, anthropology of anticipation, sociology of industry and work organisations, violence and conflict, pandemics and society, sociology and social anthropology of science and technology studies, relational ontologies, indigenous knowledge systems and decoloniality. He has been a Laureate and member of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) between 2010 and 2018. He is an editorial board member for several internationally renowned journals; and he has reviewed applications for funding submitted to world renowned global funders of anthropological research. He has been invited to deliver numerous keynote addresses, occasional lectures and guest lectures around the world. Recently, he was part of experts advising the World Health Organization on Dual-Use Research of Concern and Responsible Use of Life Sciences Research

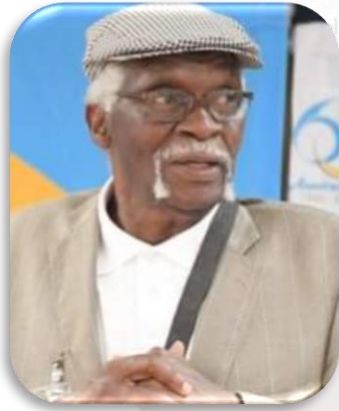


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Dr Mashudu Rubson Dima was born in 1937 in a small village called Tshitangwe, in Miluwani, Venda. In the same year, the village experienced a plague of locusts (Nzie Tshikume). In 1950 he was bitten by a wild dog and went to Sibasa Clinic for treatment. There he encountered a nurse by the name of Vho Peninah who gave him the name Mashudu (meaning Fortune), because she said he was very fortunate.

As a young boy, his family lived next to Dzivhani who was the head of Makwarela Primary School. Because his father wanted him and his siblings to attend school, Mashudu started to attend night classes at Dzivhani's home, and did so until he passed standard two. He could not go further as his family could not afford to pay the school fees.

Dr Mashudu did his Junior Certificate through correspondence, while helping his siblings financially to complete their studies. He got his Matric at the age of 65.

Dr Mashudu was a bus driver and a supervisor working at Venda Development Corporation in the former homeland state of Venda. He has been working with a variety of academic students from all over the world in their research. In 1961 Dr Dima became an African Health Practitioner and has since been awarded many certificates and other awards.



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THEME: REFLECTION, DISRUPTION AND THE REALISATION OF DECOLONIAL FUTURES: UNISA'S DECOLONIALITY SUMMER SCHOOL TENTH-YEAR ANNIVERSARY (2014-2024)

The College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA), will be celebrating ten years since hosting its inaugural Decoloniality Summer School (DSS) in 2014 – the first of its kind on the African continent. Over the past decade, the Summer School has challenged the legacies of colonialism and apartheid, and confronted coloniality, which persists in various forms in Africa and the rest of the world.

Unisa's tenth anniversary DSS will take place from 15th to 19th January 2024. This is a key moment to reflect on the successes, challenges, and limitations of the Summer School in achieving its ultimate objective of decolonising power, knowledge and being. As decoloniality becomes prevalent in Africa, key questions remain: Has sufficient practical expression been given to the modalities of decoloniality? Have we learned to unlearn in order to relearn? Have we promoted the principles of interculturality, pluriversality and border-thinking in knowledge production and dissemination? And, have we embraced a decolonial ethics that articulates the struggle(s) and the freedom(s) from coloniality through the viewpoints of the marginalized? These questions will be interrogated by renowned scholars and practitioners of decoloniality, including **Linda Martín Alcoff**, **Lewis R. Gordon**, **Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni**, **Pamela Maseko**, **Artwell Nhemachena**, **Mashudu Dima**, and others. The keynote address will be delivered by **Paul Zeleza**, Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives at Howard University, USA.

The 2024 DSS will explore a range of issues affecting the Global South, in particular, Africa. These include:

- Confronting and disrupting coloniality which continues to shape our world.
- Decolonising the Curriculum in the pursuit of relevant and authentic educational transformation.
- Articulating a *decolonial praxis* to disentangle Africa from the colonial matrix of power.
- Exposing the unequal global power relations and inequalities in the discourse of Covid-19.
- Identifying the lessons that we can learn from dissenting views from within as well as from outside the School of Decoloniality.
- Conceptualising decolonial love as a core virtue and decolonial ethics as the primary instrument for the realisation of pluriversal futures.



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REFLECTION, DISRUPTION AND THE REALISATION OF DECOLONIAL FUTURES: UNISA'S DECOLONIALITY SUMMER SCHOOL TENTH-ANNIVERSARY (2014-2024)

DAY 1: Monday, 15 January 2024

SESSION 1

Official Welcome and Opening of Unisa's 10th Decoloniality Summer School

Session Chair: Prof. Mokhele Madise

08:00-08:55 Registration and Tea

09:00-09:10 **Welcome-** Prof. Zethu Nkosi, Executive Dean, College of Human Sciences

09:10-09:25 **Brief Remarks on Decoloniality and Teaching and Learning-** Prof. Zodwa Motsa, Vice-Principal: Teaching and Learning

09:25-09:35 **Context to Unisa's 2024 Decoloniality Summer School-** Ms Kelebamang Mokgupi, CHS Head of Transformation Office

09:35-10:05 **Official Opening of the 10th Anniversary Edition of the Unisa's Decoloniality Summer School-** Prof. Puleng LenkaBula, Principal and Vice- Chancellor, UNISA

Keynote Address

10:05 – 10:50 **Keynote Address** -Prof. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, Howard University, USA

10:50 – 11:05 **Respondent 1:** Prof. Loretta Feris, University of Pretoria

11:05 – 11:20 **Respondent 2:** Dr Paul Maluleka, University of the Witwatersrand

11:20 – 11:50 Q&A

11:50 – 12:35 **In Conversation with Prof. Rosemary Moeketsi, Former Executive Dean of the College Human Sciences: A Critical Reflection of Unisa's Decoloniality Summer School at 10 years-** Facilitator: Romain Francis

12:35 – 12:50 Q&A

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH



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SESSION 2

Decoloniality and Historical Thinking: Configuring Continuity and Change in Decolonial Thought from Then to Now (PART I)

Session Chair: Teboho Molete

14:00-15:30 ***Black Existentialism and Decolonizing of Knowledge*** - Prof. Lewis Gordon, University of Connecticut

15:30-16:00 Q&A

DAY 1 CLOSES

DAY 2: Tuesday, 16 January 2024

SESSION 1

Global Coloniality and the Geopolitics of Covid-19 pandemic: Discourse and Analysis (PART I)

Session Chair: Mante Mphahlele

09:00-10:30 ***The Geopolitics of Ignorance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Global South Perspectives*** - Dr Artwell Nhemachena, University of Namibia

10:30-11:00 Q&A

Decoloniality and Historical Thinking: Configuring Continuity and Change in Decolonial Thought from Then to Now (PART II)

Session Chair: Teboho Molete

11:00-12:30 ***Fears of Black Consciousness***- Prof. Lewis Gordon, University of Connecticut

12:30-13:00 Q&A

13:00-14:00 LUNCH



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SESSION 2 *Breakaway Discussions*

Working Group Chair: Paseka Pharumele

14:00-15:00 Working Group Discussions [Themes 1 & 2]
15:00-16:00 Working Groups Feedback & Shared Reflections

16:00-16:20 **TEA**

SESSION 3 *Open Session*

Session Chair: Romain Francis

16:20-17:00 General Discussion and Q&A

DAY 2 CLOSES

DAY 3: Wednesday, 17 January 2024

SESSION 1 *Instrumentalising African Epistemologies, Pedagogies and Languages for Decolonising the Curriculum (PART I)*

Session Chair: Paseka Pharumele

09:00-10:30 ***Positioning literary archiving as a strategy for rewriting histories: excavation and appreciation of African languages literary archive-***
Prof. Pamela Maseko, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

10:30-11:00 Q&A



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Embracing a Decolonial Ethics and Praxis (PART I)

Session Chair:

Romain Francis

11:00-12:30

Decolonising Feminist Practice - Prof. Linda Martín Alcoff, CUNY

12:30-13:00

Q&A

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH

SESSION 2

Global Coloniality and the Geopolitics of the Covid-19 pandemic: Discourse and Analysis (PART II)

Session Chair:

Mante Mphahlele

14:00-15:30

Becoming Health Protectorates: The Emergent WHO Pandemic Treaty and State Sovereignty in the Global South - Dr Artwell Nhemachena, University of Namibia

15:30-16:00

Q&A

16:00-16:20

TEA

SESSION 3

Breakaway Discussions

Working Group Chair: Leon Roets

16:20-17:20

Working Group Discussions [Themes 3 & 4]

17:20-18:20

Working Group Feedback & Shared Reflections

DAY 3 CLOSSES



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Day 4: Thursday, 18 January 2024: VENUE-KGORONG FUNCTION HALL

SESSION 1

Cultivating the Mindset for a Decolonial Future (PART I)

Session Chair: Paseka Pharumele

09:00-10:30

The Contemporary Politics of Knowledge and its Implications - Prof. Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, University of Bayreuth

10:30-11:00

Q&A

Instrumentalising African Epistemologies, Pedagogies and Languages for Decolonising the Curriculum (PART II)

Session Chair: Leon Roets

11:00-12:30

Reclamation of indigenous epistemologies: Lessons from early African thinkers- Prof. Pamela Maseko, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

12:30-13:00

Q&A

13:00 -14:00

LUNCH

SESSION 2

Breakaway/ Panel Discussions

Session Chair: Kelebamang Mokgopi

14:00-15:00

Community Oriented Decolonial Praxis – Dr Mashudu Dima

15:00-15:30

Q&A

15:30-16:00

TEA



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SESSION 3 **Open Session**

Session Chair: Mante Mphahlele
16:00-17:00 General Discussion and Q&A [Theme 5]

DAY 4 CLOSSES

DAY 5: Friday, 19 January 2024: VENUE-KGORONG FUNCTION HALL

SESSION 1 **Embracing a Decolonial Ethics and Praxis (PART II)**

Session Chair: Leon Roets
09:00-10:30 **Decolonial Approaches to Epistemic Justice** - Prof. Linda Martín Alcoff, CUNY
10:30-11:00 Q&A

Cultivating the Mindset for a Decolonial Future (PART II)

Session Chair: Kelebamang Mokgopi
11:00-12:30 **Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Contribution to Decolonial Consciousness** – Prof. Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, University of Bayreuth
12:30-13:00 Q&A

SESSION 2 **Sharing of Experiences on Tuition & Research**

Session Chair: Teboho Molete



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- 13:00-13:15 Prof. Zethu Cakata (Department of Psychology, UNISA)
- 13:15-13:30 Dr Zodwa Radebe (Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, UNISA)
- 13:30-13:45 Q&A
- 13:45 -14:00 **Reflection of Unisa's 10th Anniversary Decoloniality Summer School –**
Facilitator: Mr Sihlanganiso Khumalo, PhD Student
- 14:00-14:10 **Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks** - Prof Azwihangwisi Mavhandu-Mudzusi, CHS Head for Research and Innovation

14:00-15:00 LUNCH

UNISA CHS DECOLONIALITY SUMMER SCHOOL OFFICIALLY CLOSED!