

MEDIA ADVISORY

Africa Speaks “Decolonising higher education - notes on race, gender, class and activism

ATTENTION: EDITORS, PRODUCERS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REPORTERS
DATE: 19 / MAY / 2017

The College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa will on the 3rd of May 2017 host the Africa Speaks Lecture Series. The lecture will take place at 10H00, Senate Hall, Theo van Wijk Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus. **Dr Shose Kessi**, Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town, will deliver the lecture.

The speaker's topic will address the imperative to decolonise institutions of higher education, which is high on the agenda in current debates in South Africa. Various forms of activism have been driving the call for decolonisation with students playing a central role in the Fees Must Fall (FMF) and Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) movements.

Dr Kessi indicates that this is not surprising in the historical context of student protest and organising to overthrow the apartheid system in South Africa and colonial systems across the African continent since the 1950s. The centrality of student activism makes higher education a crucial space for enquiry into its role as producer and reproducer of both coloniality and decoloniality with far reaching impacts on society as a whole.

In the upcoming talk, the speaker will explore the university as an imagined community of students and scholars located in a contested space of knowledge production. A particular focus will be on how everyday politics in university spaces inform broader contestations of raced, gendered, and classed identities in society; and when, why and how members of the university choose to engage in activism.

About Africa Speaks:

One of the most promising projects started in 2008 in the College of Human Sciences was the African Visiting Scholar Lecture Series. This innovative series was established by the College under the leadership of its then Executive Dean, Professor Rosemary Moeketsi to achieve a number of objectives aimed at improving the research capacity of the College and enhancing a critical discourse by its academics with African intellectuals on the African continent and in the diaspora.



Currently overseen by Professor Puleng Segalo (Head: Graduate Studies and Research, CHS), the vision of Africa Speaks is to nurture, develop and sustain a vibrant community of researchers and intellectuals in the College connected to the African continent and diaspora so that we can continue to be innovative in our quest for truth and our contributions to universal knowledge and the transformative needs of a developmental African state.

Members of Media are invited to attend the event

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For RSVP please contact Jacob Lebeko on 123 456 7890 / (cell) / 012 429 0000 (Tell)

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