

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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About Africa Speaks Lecture Series

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

Under the guidance and leadership of the Executive Dean of the CHS, Professor Andrew Phillips, the Africa Speaks lecture series is managed by a small committee headed by Professor Puleng Segalo (Head: Office of Graduate Studies).

Africa Speaks lecture series vision is to nurture, develop and sustain a vibrant community of researchers and intellectuals in the CHS 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.

With the objectives:

- To provide a platform and framework for accomplished and vibrant African scholars and intellectuals from the continent and the African diaspora to address the Unisa academic community on a wide range of issues that are relevant to Africa and Africans.
- To expose academics and especially young researchers in the CHS to the rich research and intellectual developments taking place on the African continent and among peoples of African descent in the Diaspora.
- To provide an intellectual platform on which Unisa academics can celebrate achievements of African scholarship and create an intellectual space through which these ideas can be debated and enriched by organic African intellectuals resident within and outside the African continent.



- To develop a new architecture of research rooted in Africa, in its challenges, its past, present and future; and in the process invigorate basic and applied research; as well as multi, intra and trans-disciplinary (MIT) research activities within the CHS in particular and the university as a whole.
- To create an innovative platform in which research in the College is enhanced by providing mentoring, role modeling and networking opportunities for developing scholars working in the CHS. In the process the CHS hopes to develop a community of critical researchers across the African continent and the African diaspora.

Several reputable and world class African scholars have been earmarked to participate in the program and ensure its continued success. These scholars provided Unisa academics with facilities and opportunities for intellectual engagement and an infrastructure for imagination that enabled staff within the CHS and the university to reflect and explore new ways of thinking about MIT research and topical issues on Africa in a critical and reflexive manner that engendered new ways of “envisioning possible futures and possible research trajectories” in the humanities and social sciences (Wenger, 1998:238).

Such lectures will continue to be an essential element in the development of a discursive research infrastructure in the CHS which is at the core of a trans-disciplinary mode of knowledge production and dissemination by an African community of practice. The lectures will also continue to be an arena in which African scholars will develop critical theoretical discourses that are oppositional to Eurocentric, apolitical and a historical views about Africa, its people, its challenges and its emerging discourses and knowledge repertoires.

What the CHS has created is a platform for the development of epistemological and ontological conceptual schemas that are rooted first and foremost in African issues to frame MIT research, teaching and academic citizenship that is informed by both local and global discourse practices. These lectures are now being compiled into an edited book and will be distributed locally, continentally and globally in print and electronic form.

The event is taking place on the following date:

Date: Wednesday, 8 February 2017

Venue: Function Hall, Kgorong Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Member of media are invited

Speaker By: Nyasha Mboti, an Associate Professor and Head of Department of Communication Studies at the University of Johannesburg.



END!

For RSVP please contact: Rivonia Naidu-Hoffmeester 0731432783 / 012 429 6413 /
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