

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

19 - 23 May 2025

Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

College of Human Sciences

Wednesday, 21 May 2024 :09-13:00 | Senate Hall (WMM)

THEME: Public deliberations and Conversations: Ethics of speaking and listening

Program Director: Prof Sherperd Mpofu

TIME	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER
11:00 – 11:10	Opening and Welcome	Prof ZZ Nkosi – CHS Executive Dean
<i>Guest Speaker</i>		
11:10 – 11:20	Introduction of the guest speaker	Dr Davids H
11:20 – 12:05	Keynote address:	Dr Pali Lehohla
<i>Respondents</i>		
12:05 – 12:35	CHS Deanery	Prof N Hlabangane
<i>Panel discussion and Q&A Session</i>		
12:35 – 12:50	Dr William Mpofu Mr Jamie Might Dr Tsholofelo Mosala Dr Sonwabile Lindani	
<i>Vote of Thanks</i>		
12:50 – 13:00		Prof OB Onyancha Head of Graduate Studies and Research Office
<i>Lunch</i>		
13:00 – 14:00		Foyer

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"Public deliberations and Conversations: Ethics of speaking and listening,"

Deliberations and conversations constitute a discourse that aim at achieving a purpose. They influence decisions that impact the lives of a people. They are multimodal and summit in an outcome. For instance, an election into office is a consequence of a public deliberation and conversation driven by multiple actors. The space for clutter and noise however in public discourse abound. The counter veiling force that guides the outcome of public deliberations and conversations for a beneficial outcome is etched in ethics of speaking and listening - empathy. This approach provides a framework that ensures that the discourse reduces clutter and provides line of sight towards achieving the desirable outcome – purpose. That public discourse is an essential element in the design of public policy is a crucial element of the exercise of choice. But how does a society manage to make rationale choices based on public discourse especially in today's ubiquitous information that citizens interact with at all times. What the information era seems to have unleashed is glossolalia that both the utterer and would be listener discover not to constitute deliberations and conversations. Political speak in South Africa has become nothing short of glossolalia. The aim is to illustrate first the hyper-scaled glossolalia that often pass for deliberations and conversations and second to inject consciousness of why and how ethics of speaking and listening matter in public deliberations and conversations. Robeyns et al on Capability Approach embrace multidimensionality of handicaps and obviously multiple pathways to solutions. This could advance the ethos of why public deliberations and conversations demand and deserve ethics of speaking and listening. Thereby escape the political echo chamber of glossolalia within which the South African public is trapped.

Key words: Glossolalia, Capability Approach, Multidimensionality, Empathy, Desirable Outcomes