

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

CrISHET

Chair for Critical Studies in
Higher Education Transformation

2018 - 2021





Vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Our Mission

To offer a diverse range of life-changing educational experiences for a better world.

Our Values




Diversity



Excellence



Ubuntu



Social Justice
and Equality



Integrity



Environmental
Stewardship

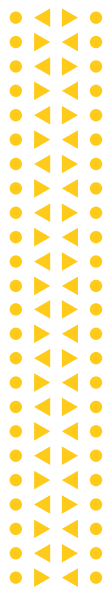


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CriSHET in Brief

The Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (*CriSHET*) was launched in 2018 as a strategic outfit to drive the transformation agenda of Nelson Mandela University. With Prof André Keet filling the Chair, *CriSHET* has played a key role in advancing key transformative projects and invigorating the University's intellectual culture across knowledge domains. The Chair generates its own sustainability through research outputs, as well as pursuing grant-funded projects.

Seeking to be a premier national, regional and international site for critical studies in higher education transformation, the Chair nurtures networks and partnerships across South Africa, the African continent and the globe. It has a strong cohort of Honorary, Visiting and Adjunct Professors, and Research and Professional Associates, who share a passion for social justice and an interest in higher education transformation.

The core thematic areas of the Chair's research are Higher Education Transformation and Critical University Studies. In the area of Higher Education Transformation, *CriSHET* leads a collaborative team across South African universities in developing an Online Resource for Higher Education Transformation (ORHET), which will serve as an archive and interactive platform, and, ultimately, facilitate education and training.

The Chair endeavours to develop Critical University Studies (CUS) through two key projects. The first is the ACUSAfrica network, initiated in 2019 with *the Emancipatory Imaginations: Advancing Critical University Studies* Winter School hosted by *CriSHET* in partnership with Queen's University Belfast. Currently, the network is coordinated by Nelson Mandela University, Queen's University Belfast, and the University of Ghana. An ACUSAfrica website was launched in 2020, and a seminar series and book project are underway. A colloquium on *Critical University Studies and the Battle Against Global Racism*

was held in February 2021 and the development of a South African chapter of the network is in progress. The second initiative is a CSUR-NRF-funded three-year project (2020-2022), mapping the fields of Higher Education Studies, Higher Education Transformation Studies and Critical University Studies.

The Chair's postgraduate programme focuses on research related to Higher Education Transformation, Critical University Studies and other radical approaches to the study of the university. The programme supervises Masters and Doctoral candidates in collaboration with Nelson Mandela University faculties and other universities, nationally and internationally, across disciplines.

CriSHET's contribution to research was recognised by the University in 2019 when, only one year after its launch, the Chair was presented with the Nelson Mandela University Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award.

The Chair is also actively involved within the University, collaborating across faculties and entities on a variety of initiatives and programmes, including seminars, public lectures and conferences.

CriSHET's programmatic work, initiated in 2018 with the *[Re] Directions/Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela: Knowledge, Praxes and the African-Purposed*

Curriculum, has grown and strengthened over the years, playing a vital role in invigorating the University's intellectual culture(s). Public lectures by renowned international scholars have contributed to the continuing debate about the decolonisation of higher education, and the recently launched *Africa & Knowledge Seminar Series* has opened up the question of thinking Africa differently.

As a strategic resource for transformation in higher education, CriSHET also works closely with the other entities, projects and programmes in the University's Engagement and Transformation Portfolio. It has served as a 'holding space' for three different flagship 'projects' for the University in order to aid in their inception: the Transdisciplinary Institute for Mandela Studies, the Hubs of Convergence, and the Centre for Women and Gender Studies. Some of these have now graduated out of CriSHET.

CriSHET's researchers, research assistants and postdoctoral fellows also contribute their time and expertise to the portfolio's working groups. These are: the Equality Working Group, the Universal Access Working Group, the Gender Transformation Working Group, the Institutional Culture Working Group, and the Food Systems Working Group.

Find out more about CriSHET and its work on the [CriSHET website](#).



Vision

CriSHET seeks to be a premier national, regional and international site for critical studies in higher education transformation.

Our Mission

The mission of *CriSHET* comprises the study of higher education transformation, connecting such inquiry to critical social justice praxes and the challenges and contestations within higher education against the backdrop of national, regional and global processes.

Purpose

CriSHET was established as a strategic outfit to drive the transformation agenda of the University by grounding it in critical studies and framing it within the concept of an African-purposed curriculum in view of the current debates about the decolonisation of the University. This includes being a strategic resource to various key stakeholders, internally and externally, and supporting the leadership team, positioning Nelson Mandela University within the higher education sector to make a strategic impact.



Strategic Interventions & Support

In its role as a strategic resource for the University, *CriSHET* has served as a 'holding space' for three different flagship 'projects' for the University in order to aid their inception. The Chair worked to establish the Transdisciplinary Institute for Mandela Studies (TIMS), meant to pursue scholarly engagement with the figure of Mandela, through the *Dalibhunga: This Time? That Mandela?* Colloquium hosted in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Human Sciences Research Council in 2019.

As part of contributing to the University's ambition to reimagine engagement and advance equalising collaboration, *CriSHET* was involved in co-creating the Hubs of Convergence, which hosted its Initiation Event at the Govan Mbeki Multipurpose Sports Centre in Bethelsdorp in 2019. This project has since moved out of *CriSHET* and nurtures projects in a variety of areas – such as food sustainability, community journalism, and anti-gender-based violence activism – alongside community stakeholders.

The Centre for Women and Gender Studies also moved out of *CriSHET* with its launch in October 2019. Now





hosting the SARChI Chair in African Feminist Imaginations, the Centre has developed a rigorous and vibrant community of gender scholars and activists through its programmatic work.

CriSHET has also contributed some of its capacity to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prof Keet was co-opted into the COVID-19 Coordinating Committee as convenor and chairperson from 31 March 2020. Dr Jenny du Preez, Postdoctoral Fellow at *CriSHET*, has also been involved, serving as the secretariat for the CCC since 16 April 2020. This work was especially intensive at the beginning of the pandemic and has been very productive for the engagement and transformation mandate. It has fostered connections with external stakeholders and practical engagement with various communities, as well as providing invaluable lessons for the continued pursuit of transformative engagement.

CriSHET's researchers, research associates and postdoctoral fellows have also contributed in a variety of collaborative ways to the engagement and transformation agenda at the University. They are involved in various capacities in the Engagement and Transformation Portfolio's working groups. These are: the Equality Working Group, the Universal Access Working Group, the Institutional Culture Working Group, the Gender Transformation Working Group, and the Food Systems Working Group. They also work closely with the DVC's Office, providing capacity and support to develop the Engagement and Transformation Portfolio and further its strategic objectives.



Research

CriSHET has a strong research presence within the University and the higher education sector. Its staff, postdoctoral fellows and associates disseminate their research through formal academic means, such as accredited journals and peer-reviewed books, as well as more popular means, such as the *Daily Maverick*, *The Herald* and *The Conversation*. Through these written outputs, *CriSHET* and its associates have contributed to conversations in South Africa, Africa and beyond, around university transformation and the pursuit of social justice.

CriSHET's body of publications explores higher education transformation from a multiplicity of angles. Decolonisation and Africanisation are important areas of research in the work produced, as are questions of race, gender, and language.

Discussion of alternative pedagogies appears frequently, with scholars exploring pedagogies of discomfort and compassion, anti-complicity pedagogies, and critical pedagogies. The application of theories of affect emerges as a significant trend in thinking through more socially just modes of education. Critical studies that focus on curricula initiated in pursuit of social justice are also propounded, with authors reviewing typologies of global citizenship education and human rights education.

All of these explorations feed into the larger question that underlies *CriSHET*'s work: How do we re-imagine the university in more socially just ways? This is a deeply philosophical question related to ethics and ontologies; but also a question that requires deep, critical engagement with systems and discourses. *CriSHET*'s research tackles the

CriSHET Research Areas



systemic issues at hand in numerous ways, from interrogating higher education internationalisation, global ranking systems and the challenges of displaced academics, to examining structural issues facing the university, such as mergers and studentification, and exploring theories of change for higher education.

A final significant trend in the research outputs of the Chair is a focus on the creative arts and literature as a modality for socially just education and for exploring complex issues related to injustice.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

SUBSIDY YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PUBLICATION DATE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BOOKS	0	2 (10)	1 (5)	5 (18)	2
BOOK CHAPTERS	9 (4.14)	16 (11.08)	9 (6.8704)	24	16
ARTICLES	15 (7.66)	29 (18.6)	28 (19.7496)	31	30
TOTAL OUTPUTS	24	47	38	60	48 (as of October 2021)
TOTAL (units)	11.8	39.68	31.62	35 (estimate)	30 (estimate)

Artwork by Xolela Madlanga

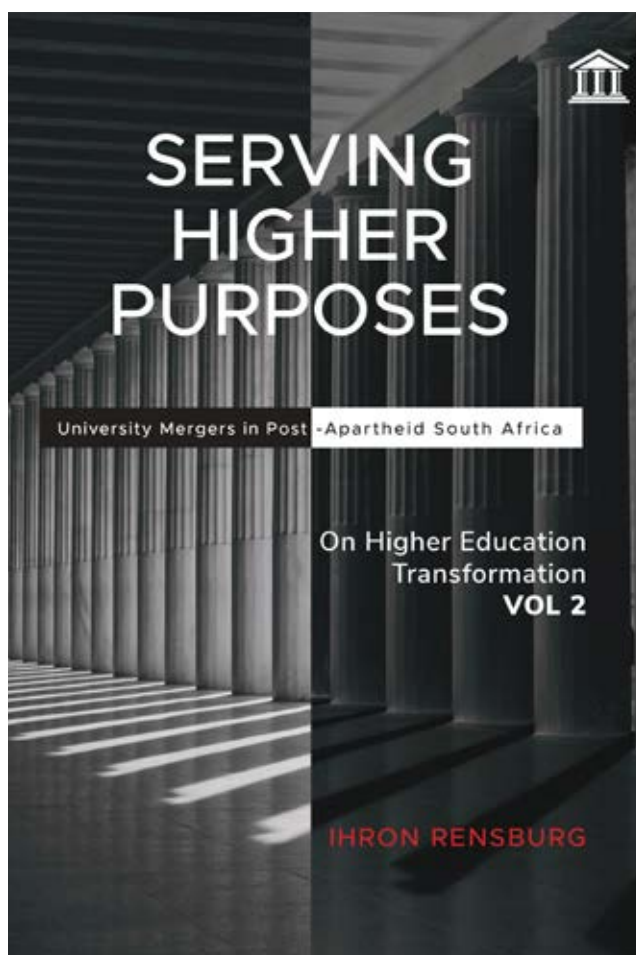
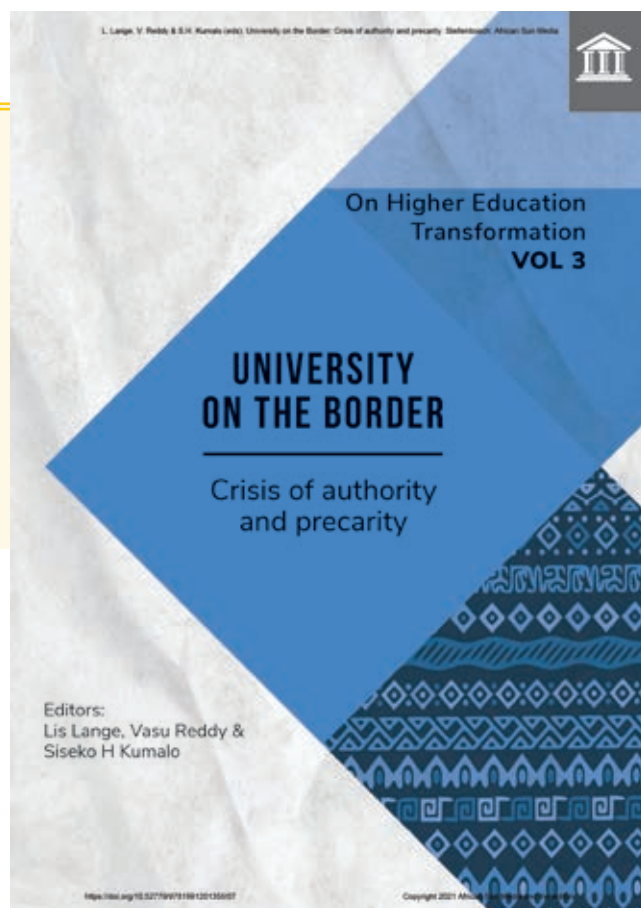


Book Series & Journals

Apart from producing research outputs disseminated through accredited journals and books, the Chair is also actively involved in creating spaces for the publication of scholarship around higher education transformation. Prof Keet serves as co-editor of two book series, and CriSHET drives a variety of book projects that feed into these. CriSHET also collaborates on the publication of a student journal.

The Chair, in partnership with the Director of the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education at the University of Johannesburg, the now late Prof Michael Cross, relaunched the book series On Higher Education Transformation with African SUN Media in 2020. Three volumes have been published in the series: *Scholarly Engagement and Decolonisation: Views from South Africa, The Netherlands and the United States* edited by Abel Valenzuela Jr, Halleh Ghorashi, Liezl Dick and Maurice Crul; *Serving Higher Purposes: University Mergers in Post-Apartheid South Africa* by Ihron Rensburg; and *University on the Border: Crisis of Authority and Precarity* edited by Lis Lange, Vasu Reddy and Siseko H Kumalo. The Nelson Mandela University book project, which is at the draft chapter stage, will also be published as part of this series. Other book projects in process for the series include *Making Visible the Invisible: Institutional Cultures in South African Higher Education* (Eds. Qawekazi Maqabuka, Christi van der Westhuizen, Babalwa Magoqwana and Nomalanga Mkhize), *Advancing Critical University Studies* (Eds. Dina Belluigi, Jason Arday and André Keet) and *Critical Social Work: Prospects and Challenges* (Eds. Anneline Keet, Nevashnee Perumal and Veonna Goliath). Since the untimely passing of Prof Cross, the series editors are Prof Keet and Prof Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis of the University of Johannesburg.

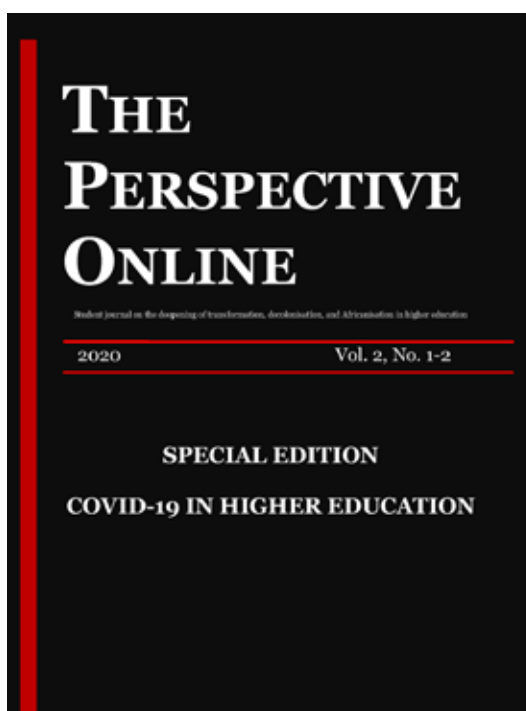
Prof Keet is also co-editor with Prof Woldegiorgis on another book series entitled African Higher Education: Developments and Perspectives. This is in collaboration with Brill Publishers. Books published in this series so far include: *Transforming Universities in South Africa: Pathways to Higher Education Reform* (2020) edited by Ihron Rensburg, Shireen Motala and Michael Cross; *Partnership in Higher Education: Trends Between African and*



European Institutions (2020) edited by Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis and Christine Scherer; *Inclusion as Social Justice: Theory and Practice in African Higher Education* (2020) edited by Amasa P. Ndofrepi and Martin Musengi; and *Deanship in the Global South: Bridging Troubled Waters* (2021) by Oliver J. J. Seale.

To translate student activism and initiatives into critical scholarly discourses, CriSHET, in partnership with the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Governance and Development, initiated a quarterly student journal, titled *The Perspective Online*, in 2018. Each interdisciplinary issue, which undergoes a peer-review process, features articles, columns and creative work by students (and some academic scholars) on the deepening of transformation, decolonisation and Africanisation of higher education. The idea for the journal came from a collective observation that student activism also needs to be driven by thoughtful and productive contributions to advance academic, pedagogical and knowledge renewal within the University. The journal has been positioned as a strategic resource for students to develop a culture of disciplined writing in order to bring to the fore a particular social consciousness amongst university students underpinned by robust engagement, radical contestation of ideas, and critical scholarship.

To date, the Journal has issued three publications: *The Morphology of the #MustFall Movement* (Vol. 1. No. 1 2019); *Decolonisation of Law* (2019), which was a special edition in collaboration with the Law Faculty; and a special edition on *COVID-19 in Higher Education* (Vol 2. No. 1-2 2020).



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***The Perspective Online* Journal Launch:
COVID-19 in Higher Education
SPECIAL EDITION**

The *Perspective Online* journal is published bi-annually at Nelson Mandela University by the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CrSHET), the Office of the Dean of Students, and the Department of Student Governance and Development.

SPEAKERS:

SPEAKERS:
Anne Munene | Yasmeen Ally
Vuyolwethu Ngcofe | Zvikomborero Hweju

Date: Thursday, 09 April 2021
Time: 14:00 - 15:30 (SAST)

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/P215ZipTtSdhkzFX6>
or email anele.mngadi@mandela.ac.za



SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT AND DECOLONISATION

Views from South Africa, The Netherlands and the United States

Editors: M Crul, L Dick, H Ghorashi & A Valenzuela, Jr

Considering that one of the core tasks of academia is to provide social critique and reflection, universities have an undeniable role to formulate the contours of a more inclusive academia in contrast to visible and normalised structures of exclusion. Translating such ambitions into transformative practices seems to be easier said than done. Academics need mutual inspiration and exchange of thoughts and practices to reflect on their actions and their own knowledge productions. The authors in this book mirror the challenges and achievements of academics and practitioners in three national contexts, which could serve as a foundation for academia to move towards dismantling elitist and privileged-based assumptions, and formulating new forms of knowledge production and institutional policies, inside and outside academia. The book aims to help create a more inclusive society in which academics, students and practitioners can engage, learn and transform structures of inequality, exclusion and disconnection where it seems to have the biggest impact.



R400

78-1-928314-57-8 e-book

rs@aficansunmedia.co.za

AFRICAN
SUN MEDIA



INVITATION: BOOK LAUNCH

The University of Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela University invite you to the book launch *Transforming Universities in South Africa, Pathways to Higher Education Reform* editors Prof Ihron Rensburg, Prof Shireen Motala and Prof Michael Cross (Brill/Sense publishers). The book offers scholarly chapters focused on how we navigate the complex processes of higher education transformation. The chapters revisit debates related to higher education policy, inequality, leadership and access, curriculum, and question of decolonisation, bringing together authors who are of higher education experts and scholars, nationally and internationally.

Date: 8 December 2020

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

Place: Zoom Meeting

RSVP: Ms Beverly Magome (bmagome@uj.ac.za)

Ms Loria Mokoena (loriam@uj.ac.za)

Ms Anele Mngadi (Anele.Mngadi@mandela.ac.za)

To access the online event please login in:

<https://zoom.us/j/98018938476>

NELSON MANDELA
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AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: DEVELOPMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES
**Transforming Universities
in South Africa**

**Pathways to Higher Education
Reform**

Ihron Rensburg, Shireen Motala and
Michael Cross (Eds.)



BRILL | SENSE

Critical University Studies

CriSHET's research agenda is the study of the university as a social institution through the lens of critique. As such, it is invested in advancing Critical University Studies (CUS) within an African context, recognising both the value of the field and the critical angle it brings to the study of higher education, and aware of its limitations as it is currently constructed.

Critical University Studies as a project is understood as the study of universities through “analyses of power, privilege and authority, focusing on the production of discursive fields of higher education transformation (the actors, players, histories, frames, etc.); the social structure of the academy; the power relations embedded within the organisation of knowledge, its disciplines and disciples; the mechanics of authority and power within knowledge generation processes, research subjects, objects, topics and trends; the politics of knowledge and academic publishing; pedagogical typologies; the construction of professional and student identities; institutional culture; and the relationship between university and society”¹.

In order to progress this field, *CriSHET* is involved in two main initiatives: firstly, the CSUR-NRF-funded Critical University Studies research project held by Prof André Keet, and secondly, the ACUSAfrica (Advancing Critical University Studies in Africa) network.

CSUR-NRF-FUNDED PROJECT ON CRITICAL UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Prof André Keet holds a grant from the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) for the years 2020 to 2022 for a research project aimed at paving the way forward in Critical University Studies. This is a critical, yet fledgling, field of inquiry in South Africa.

The key premise of this project is that the policy and legislative architecture of the South African higher education system and the ‘philosophies’, ‘orientations’ and ‘praxes’ of agencies such as the

Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), the National Research Foundation, and others, have framed the key organising principles of higher education transformation within discursive fields that construct the ‘ideal type’ university along historically produced hierarchies and distributions of worth.

Stated differently, the system’s categories of self-understanding are locked into discursive fields that ‘simulate’ change on the one hand, while justifying and legitimising systemically-anchored discriminatory outcomes on the other. The deep transformation of higher education in South Africa is inhibited by the programmes and interventions that ensue from these discursive fields that govern its organising concepts, principles and praxes. Critical University Studies is proposed as an approach that can disclose and deconstruct the construction and functioning of these discursive fields to develop alternative, more productive frameworks for university transformation.

The project has three overarching goals:

1. To map the field of Critical University Studies in comparison to Higher Education Studies and Higher Education Transformation Studies in South Africa and beyond, and deconstruct the discursive fields that frame higher education transformation in South Africa.
2. To analyse the research and programmatic propositions of Critical University Studies critically, nationally and globally, and build collaborations and research networks.
3. To connect South African and other scholars to explore the intellectual and pragmatic value of Critical University Studies and develop ideas for strengthening the field, as a key contribution to alternative studies of university transformation.

See more information about this project [here](#).

¹ André Keet & Michael Cross. 2020. Introduction to On Higher Education book series. In: *Decolonisation and Scholarly Engagement: Views from South Africa, The Netherlands and the United States*. Eds. Maurice Cruil, Liezl Dick, Halleh Ghorashi & Abel Valenzuela Jr. Stellenbosch: Africa Sun Media. p. xxi.



ACUSAfrica

The ACUSAfrica initiative began in 2019 when CriSHET, in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund, hosted the *Emancipatory Imaginations: Advancing Critical University Studies Winter School*. The Winter School brought together scholars and practitioners from Ghana, the UK, India, Kenya, Ireland, South Africa, Uganda, and other countries, with an interest in the critical study of higher education, to challenge and 'denaturalize the dominant higher education imaginary'. Key to the 'ideas' of the Winter School was the prospect of 'other' ways to study universities that are meaningfully different from the various strands of conventional higher education studies, and to explore a flexible configuration of a Critical University Studies programme that is capable of thinking plural forms of emancipatory higher education imaginations and futures.



The Winter School led to the development of the [ACUSAfrica website](#). This site is a dialectical space to foreground scholarship for advancing Critical University Studies across Africa in dialogue with scholarship from across the global South and excluded North. It serves as a platform for sharing events, calls, blogs, podcasts and videos related to growing the intellectual project of Critical University Studies in Africa. An [ACUSAfrica seminar series](#) has been initiated, with two seminars held in 2021: "Navigating Shomoyscapes and Faculty Life in the Global South: Bangladeshi Faculty Perspectives" by Riyad Shahjahan, Tasnim Ema and Nisharggo Niloy, with Carolina Guzmán-Valenzuela and Fadia Dakka as respondents; and "Sustainability, Transdisciplinarity

and the Public Epistemic Role of Higher Education" by Su-Ming Khoo. An Advancing Critical University Studies book project is also in progress.

Another highlight of this work is the online ACUSAfrica colloquium, an initiative of CriSHET, the University of Ghana and Queen's University Belfast held in February of 2021. Entitled "[Advancing Critical University Studies: Critical University Studies and the Battle Against Global Racism](#)", the colloquium featured provocations by Paul Zeleza and Shirley Anne Tate. It opened up rich discussion about the future of the network, the challenges of COVID-19 and higher education, and the imperative of dismantling global racism.



Online Resource for Higher Education Transformation

[LEARN MORE](#)


ARCHIVES &
RESOURCES



INTERACTIVE
FORUMS



TRAINING &
DEVELOPMENT



SHIFTING THE TRANSFORMATION PARADIGM

Due to the covid-19 pandemic which has upend research, teaching and learning. [Read more »](#)



WOMEN AND CHALLENGES IN THE ACADEMIA

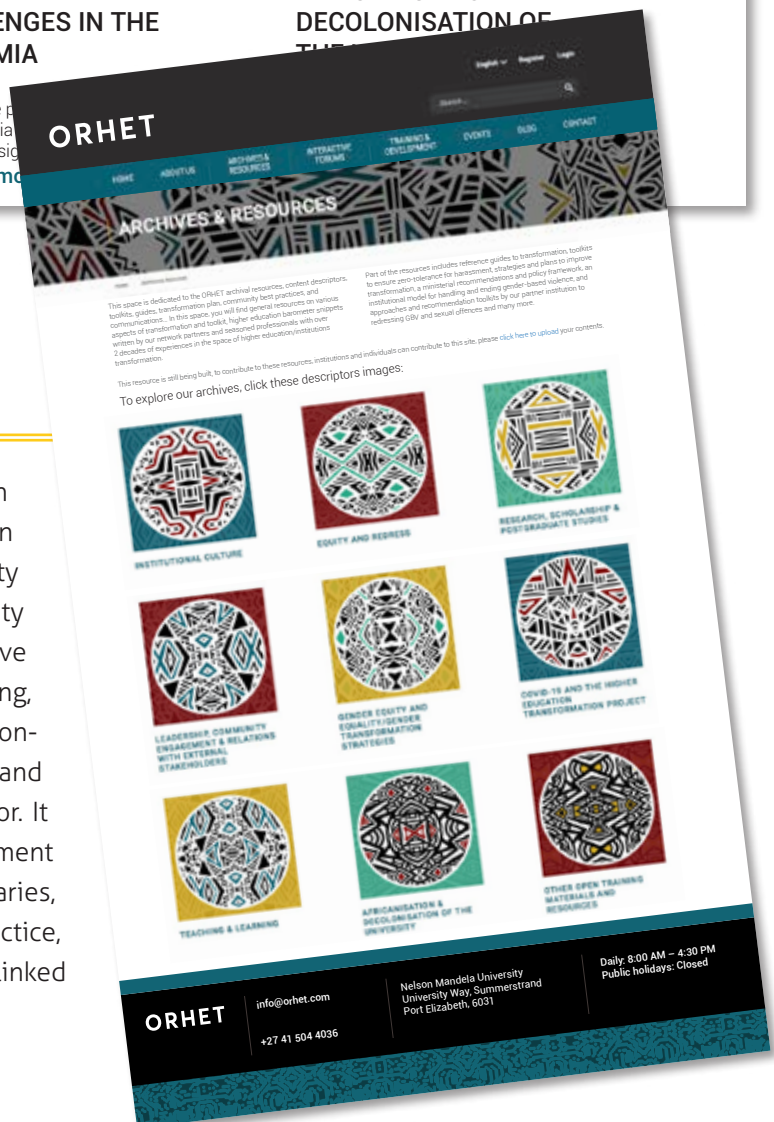
Globally, the position of women in the academia is a significant challenge. [Read more »](#)



AFRICANISATION & DECOLONISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

Higher Education Transformation

The Online Resource for Higher Education Transformation (ORHET) is a Nelson Mandela University-led project in collaboration with Stellenbosch University, the University of Cape Town, Rhodes University, and the Vaal University of Technology. It is envisaged as an extensive interactive archive and collaborative platform for the location, tracking, sourcing, classification and categorisation of transformation-related teaching and learning resources, training modes and platforms, research, good practices, etc. within the sector. It will provide the basis for e-learning, blended development programmes and workshop series; and the growth of libraries, databases, links, discussion forums, communities of practice, blogs, chatrooms, email listservs and research networks linked to the themes of higher education transformation.



Programmatic Work

To achieve its objectives of facilitating spaces for University stakeholders to engage with transformation challenges and advancing social justice praxes within higher education, CriSHET is involved in various programmatic initiatives. The largest events have been around Advancing Critical University Studies, with the *Emancipatory Imaginations: Advancing Critical University Studies* Winter School in 2019, and the *Advancing Critical University Studies: Critical University Studies and the Battle Against Global Racism* Colloquium in 2021. CriSHET has also been involved in a multitude of seminars, book launches, public lectures, dialogues and conversations, some of which are captured below.

In 2018, CriSHET initiated its flagship seminar series titled *[Re] Directions/Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela: Knowledge, Praxes and the African-Purposed Curriculum*. These presentations provide both established and emerging academics, as well as current graduate students, a platform to present original reflections and scholarship that challenge mainstream thinking within academe. Presenters in this long-running series include Tshepo Madlingozi

talking about the 'decolonial turn', Melanie Judge discussing "Fashioning Queer Freedom", Relebohile Moletsane enacting a "Feminist 'Ghost Dance' with Mandela", Lieketseng Ned and Chioma Ohajunwa on decolonising health sciences, Xolela Mangcu and Shireen Hassim engaging on "(Re)Assessing Mandela", and Claudio Costa Pinheiro on decoloniality and the 'global south'.





NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

Africa and Knowledge

Seminar Series

Friday, 06 November 2020 | 13:00 – 14:30 SAST

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/NKwvvt5jAJSBYf3C7>
or email: Anele.Mngadi@mandela.ac.za

SPEAKERS



Nomalanga Mkhize
is a historian and head of the department of History and Political Studies at the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth.



Uchenna Okeja
is a member of the department of philosophy at Rhodes University and Director of Emergins Institute for Comparative Global Studies in Worcester, MA.



Mutinda Nzioki
is the current Director for Centre for Philosophy in Africa at the Nelson Mandela University. He is also a Lecturer at the Department of Philosophy.

Theme: Engaging the present - Africa in the world

This series will focus on Africa and knowledges guided by the question "What is an African today?" This question is not a demand for a description of the sort of thing we can say is African, that is, an account of qualities we can claim are predominantly shared by people inhabiting the geographical space called Africa. This question is rather an invitation to consider the sort of Africa we think is worth striving after. Who should we strive to become as Africans today – in the here and now? That is the challenge.

This seminar series is presented by the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation, Emergins Institute for Comparative Global Studies, Center for Philosophy in Africa, and the Faculty of Humanities of Nelson Mandela University.

Emergins Institute
For Comparative Global Studies

CriSHET also collaborates with other faculties, departments and entities in the University to host and promote seminars, guest lectures, book launches, and panel roundtables presented by leading international and national scholars and activists. Highlights include hosting Nelson Maldonado-Torres for a public lecture entitled "Fanon, Decoloniality, and the Spirit of Bandung: Notes on the Organisation of a Decolonial Project", and Boaventura de Sousa Santos for a public lecture entitled "Decolonizing the University and Beyond". *CriSHET* was also involved in the Mandela Centenary Celebrations in 2019, hosting Xolela Mangcu for two lectures: "The Untold Heritage" and "Mandela's Tragic Pragmatism: Leadership as Radical Sacrifice".

In collaboration between *CriSHET*, the Centre for Philosophy in Africa, the Faculty of Humanities, and the Emengini Institute for Comparative Global Studies, the *Africa and Knowledge* Seminar Series was launched in

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRANSFORMATION PRESENTS:

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACTIVISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr Desire Chiwandire is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (*CriSHET*) at Nelson Mandela University (NNU). He holds a PhD in Political and International Studies from Rhodes University where he also taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Critical Disability Studies and Political Studies. His doctoral thesis focused on the social inclusion of students with disabilities at South African universities and has also published his academic work in refereed journals. His research interests broadly focus on Disability Politics specifically the intersectionality of race, class, gender, and disability in South African educational and workplace environments. He is also currently working with NNU's Transformation Office, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit as well as the Universal Accessibility and Disability Services (UADS) on issues related to campus disability inclusion research, advocacy and awareness raising initiatives.

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Desire Chiwandire (NNU)

DATE: 17 JUNE 2021 | TIME: 11H00 – 13H00
Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/join/join?wn_j55umCrGRG0u8n3nkU48Q
ZOOM PASSCODE: 886268





NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation, Center for Philosophy in Africa, and the Faculty of Humanities of Nelson Mandela University

AFRICA KNOWLEDGE
VIRTUAL ISSUE

THHEME
Of tired narratives and the making of a disposable people: unweaving the epistemic tools embedded in the African past

Thursday, 28th January 2021
15:00hrs – 17:00hrs SAST

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/NKwastGAJ28YV3CT>
or email: Awake.Mogae@mandela.ac.za

Emengini Institute
For Cooperative Studies Studies

SPREADS
Ebrima Sall
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRUSTAFRICA

Ebrima Sall is the Executive Director of TrustAfrica, a pan-African foundation based in Dakar. From 2009 to 2017 he was the Executive Secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). Sall is also member of the Expert Group supporting the work of UNESCO Global Commission on the Futures of Education, and of its Scientific Advisory Committee of UNESCO's Management & Social Transformation (MST) program. He holds a 'Maitre 2044' degree in Economic and Social Administration from the University of Grenoble II in France, and a PhD in sociology from the University of Paris I-Flantern-Sorbonne.

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

[Re] Directions/Ukuthintshwa Kwendlela
Knowledge, Praxis and the African-purposed curriculum

Mulinda (Sam) Nzioki
I consider myself a student of Africa, engaging Africans to face up to themselves, in their own terms. This has developed in both my academic endeavours and work life as analyst of political risk. My academic background involved undergraduate studies on media and African writing through critical theory and postcolonial critique. My postgraduate studies on African politics focused on democratisation, political economy and risk and scenario planning. Presently my research interests have brought all these together in a pursuit to thinking a different Africanity, one that thrives through difficult questions within Africa's complex conditions.

'Shit-holing' Africa: Who really gets Africa, anyway?
The outrage provoked by Donald Trump's 'shithole countries' comment, in reference to immigrants of African and Haitian descent, failed. Most retorts showed inadequate comprehension of the implications of this comment for Africans, and the politico-cultural realities of those on whose behalf these responses are uttered. A better grasp of this discourse would imply that, whilst being rightfully outraged, we should also formulate thought and action that affirms and admonishes Africa *in its own terms*. This presentation invites our community of students of Africa to face up to our claims of knowing Africa, as well as our thinking and doing processes about its future. It asks, is there a right way for Africa to know itself?

Date: Friday, 9 March 2018
Time: 14:30-16:00
Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

RSVP: 5 March 2018
Baronique Hesthe
T 041 304 4036 | Baronique.Hesthe@mandela.ac.za
refreshments will be served

mandela.ac.za

A Seminar Series of the Chair Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CSHET)

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

The Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education and Transformation, Emengini Institute for Cooperative Global Studies, Centre for Philosophy in Africa and the Faculty of Humanities at Nelson Mandela University present

AFRICA KNOWLEDGE
VIRTUAL ISSUE

THHEME
"Mkhuli" (Sol Plaatje) and "The Cry of Winnie Mandela" (Ngabulo Ndebele) and possible new ways of reading

Thursday, 19th August 2021
Time: 15:00-16:30 SAST

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/3379E31qP5u6X28>
or email: Awake.Mogae@mandela.ac.za

Emengini Institute
For Cooperative Studies Studies

SPREADS
Professor Antjie Krog

ABSTRACT: In a recent article on Sol T. Plaatje's "Mkhuli", (Bakizwe Peterson 2020) writes of the necessity of developing a different way of reading particular texts in South Africa as they are inaugurating an underappreciated method or genre of creative meditation: that is, creatively thinking through (rather than 'philosophising' or 'theorising' in conventional ways) a range of difficult historical, political and social questions and challenges. (22) According to him, their texts challenge the orthodoxy of the novel in the twentieth century, and are structured to allow a multiplicity of perspectives and arguments to emerge, making actual the thoughts of a philosopher, a social scientist and an historian within the newly configured concept of what a novel should be. "I am advocating that their novels constitute modes of creative thinking and practice that had been undervalued even by scholars who are proponents of 'decolonisation'" (236).

November 2020. The series focuses on Africa and knowledges, guided by the question "What is an African today?" This question is not a demand for a description of the sort of thing we can say is African, that is, an account of qualities we can claim are predominantly shared by people inhabiting the geographical space called Africa. This question is rather an invitation to consider the sort of Africa we think is worth striving for. Who should we strive to become as Africans today – in the here and now? That, the series posits, is the challenge. The [launch](#) consisted of presentations by the three main organisers – Prof Nomalanga Mkhize, Prof Uchenna Okeja and Dr Mutinda Nzioki – to set the stage for the series, which continued

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

**BOOK
LAUNCH**

**WEDNESDAY, 11
NOVEMBER 2020
15:00 - 17:00 SAST**

Join us online to celebrate the launch of
Professor Ihron Rensburg's new book.



**SERVING
HIGHER
PURPOSES**

Please register [here](#) for login details/
email: Anele.Mngadi@mandela.ac.za



Serving higher purposes presents a captivating account of one of the most noteworthy events of democratic South Africa - the transformation of the university landscape. Prof Ihron Rensburg recounts both the challenges and successes of the creation of the University of Johannesburg and traces its trajectory from a muddled merger between competing institutions to a truly African university. Weaving together personal observations, family history, socio-economic theory and even the history of a city, this is a text which offers us not only a glimpse of a particular university, but of how we can be, how we can do, within the space of the university.

Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala
Vice Chancellor, University of Johannesburg

"Ihron Rensburg, with a sharp eye on his own historical production, giftedly succeeds in presenting a text without which the University of Johannesburg will not be able to understand its own history, and without which the university sector in our country will be unqualified to grasp its own transformation project"

Prof. Sibongile Muthwa
Vice Chancellor, Nelson Mandela University
Chairperson, Universities South Africa (USAf)

About the author



Prof Rensburg is Administrator of Vaal University of Technology, Chairperson of the South Africa National UNESCO Commission, Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee on the Review of the Higher Education, Science and Technology Landscape, Senior Advisor to the Principal and Visiting Professor at King's College London, and Honorary Professor at Nelson Mandela University.

He was Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg from 2006 to 2017, prior to which he was CE Strategic Services at the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Deputy Director General of South Africa's Department of Education, and General Secretary of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, the National Education Crisis Committee.

Prof Rensburg was Commissioner of South Africa's National Planning Commission, where he chaired the working group on Social Protection and Human Capabilities. He served as Executive Committee Member of Universitas21, Chairperson of the South Africa as well as the Southern Africa Universities Vice Chancellors Associations, Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee on Student Accommodation in South African Universities, Member of the Ministerial Committee on the Funding of South African Universities, Councilor of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and Governor of the Commonwealth of Learning.

Prof Rensburg holds the B. Pharmacy degree (Rhodes University), and the M.A. and Ph.D. (Stanford University). He was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of the West Indies and the President's Medal for Global Leadership at the University of the Southern Carolina and is an Honorary Fellow of Kings College London.

into 2021 with presentations with by Ebrima Sall, Chielozona Eze, Antjie Krog, and Martin Ajei.


One of CriSHET's postdoctoral fellows, Dr Desire Chiwandire, has been active in driving the imperative of universal access as part of the broader transformation project. Apart from his research and involvement with policy development and the Universal Access Working Group, Dr Chiwandire frequently presents on questions of disability rights and universal access. With the CriSHET team and in collaboration with the Transformation Office and the Universal Access and Disability Services (UADS) at Nelson Mandela University, Dr Chiwandire is also spearheading a disability rights symposium on student activism, politics and engagement in higher education.

To explore CriSHET's programmatic work, please visit the CriSHET [YouTube channel](#) where recordings of events are uploaded.


NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

[Re] Directions / Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela
Knowledge, Praxes and the African-Purposed Curriculum

(Re)Assessing Mandela



Xolela Mangcu
Xolela Mangcu is Professor of Sociology and History and Director of African Studies at George Washington University, and Visiting Professor at Nelson Mandela University. He is the winner of the many Oppenheimer Fellowships, South Africa's most prestigious academic award. He is currently writing a biography on Nelson Mandela.




Professor Shireen Hassim
Professor Shireen Hassim is the Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and African Politics at Carleton University, Canada. She is an internationally renowned expert in feminist theory, politics, social movements and collective action. She spent the 2013-2018 academic year as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard.

Towards the end of 2019 the *Journal of Southern African Studies (JSAS)* published a special issue with the theme "Reassessing Mandela", which included ten articles by scholars. This issue is currently being turned into a book, due for publication towards the end of 2020.


The JSAS content will serve as a point of departure and participants will be provided with access to the content and encouraged to read it ahead of the seminar. Two of the contributors to the JSAS special issue, Professor Shireen Hassim and Professor Xolela Mangcu, will offer provocations to initiate the seminar deliberations. They will speak about their own contributions to the special issue and critically reflect on the publication as a whole.

The purpose of the seminar will be to engage with current Mandela-related scholarship, identify and explore fresh lines of enquiry, and distil critical questions which would be helpful for the process currently underway towards the establishment of the Transdisciplinary Institute for Mandela Studies (TIMS).

Date: Thursday, 9 July 2020
Time: 15:00 - 17:00 SAST
Platform: Zoom
Kindly click here to register for the webinar.




This webinar is hosted by the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (COSHET) in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation.



NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

[Re] Directions / Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela
Knowledge, Praxes and African-Purposed Curriculum

De-coloniality and the Global South: Revisiting political engagements and transformative disciplinary projects in Social Sciences



Cláudio Costa Pinheiro
Cláudio Pinheiro is Professor of Asian and African Studies, at Rio de Janeiro Federal University (FRA); Chairman of Saphis Programme (NED); Visiting Professor for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation, Nelson Mandela University (ZAF); and a member of the Global (De)Centre network.

In recent decades, voices of important Southern thinkers – from within or outside academia – have gained renewed relevance for Social Theory at large. Who are these thinkers and where is this South? The process of "promoting" Southern voices has involved "discovering" supposedly new scholars, practitioners and activists, and their ideas, that are later certified as Theory. This has brought much needed representativity of races, genders and histories on the understanding that the institutionalization of this kind of diversity would decolonize academic canons. To what extent did it bring effective transformation to knowledge production, to the university, to science or to social life at large? Despite representing an accessible intellectual toolkit, de-colonialization does not always sit well with vernacular critical thinking, and sometimes ends up reinforcing the inequality it wishes to overcome. What sort of alternative engagements are needed for producing renewed engagement with scholarship? This talk, conceived as a conversation, invites exploring Southern Attitude, a resourceful concept for addressing structures of power in academia through a grounded engagement with critical thinking and teaching.

Date: Friday, 4 June 2021
Platform: Zoom

Time: 15:00-16:30 (SAST)
RSVP: Use this link or email Anele.Mngadi@mandela.ac.za

Change the World

mandela.ac.za

This seminar is hosted by the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (COSHET) in collaboration with the Engagement and Transformation Portfolio Office.



Pola Maneli

Pola Maneli is a South African visual artist. His work looks at the components which make up one's identity; how they're constructed, (mis)understood, disseminated and ultimately how essential the meanings we ascribe to these components are when assessing or coming to grips with one's identity. He is currently completing his Masters degree in the Visual

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

[Re] Directions/Ukutshintshwa Kwendlela
Knowledge, Praxes and the African-purposed curriculum

"Transgressive Performativities of Blackness within the Visual Arts"

The precarity that most Black people experience, in combination with white supremacist visual arts institutions in South Africa, create conditions that interpellate Black subjectivities to only understand themselves in relation to whiteness. However, through critical praxes and an idiosyncratic orientation, it may be possible to create work that transgresses these norms, thus contesting the notion of a homogenous Black experience or identity.

Date: Friday, 16 February 2018

Time: 14:30-16h00

Venue: Bird Street Campus, Art Gallery, Drawing Room (upstairs)

RSVP: 12 February 2018

Deronique Hoshe

T 041 504 4036 E Deronique.Hoshe@mandela.ac.za

A Seminar Series of the Chair: Critical Studies
in Higher Education Transformation (CRISHET)

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

The Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education and Transformation, Emengini Institute for Global Studies, Centre for Philosophy in Africa and the Faculty of Humanities in Nelson Mandela University present:



Thursday, 25th March 2021
Time: 15:00–16:30 SAST

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/FCGcuEJSU9AsqjE8>

or email: Anele.Mngadi@Mandela.ac.za

THEME

Nelson Mandela and the Topology
of African Encounter with the World



SPEAKER

Chielozona Eze, PhD.

Chielozona Eze is a Professor of African and African American literary and cultural studies at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, where he is also Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor. He earned a Ph.D. from Purdue University in English and Philosophy and has written extensively on such topics as cosmopolitanism, empathy, human rights and social justice. His most recent publication is *Justice and Human Rights in the African Imagination: We, Too, Are Humans* (Routledge, 2021).

Emengini Institute
For Comparative Global Studies

UNIVERSITY

The Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education and Transformation, Emengini Institute for Comparative Global Studies, Centre for Philosophy in Africa and the Faculty of Humanities in Nelson Mandela University present:



Thursday, 23rd September 2021
Time: 15:00–16:30 SAST

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/ed9pWqPhauXmFJVUB>

or email: Anele.Mngadi@Mandela.ac.za

Emengini Institute
For Comparative Global Studies

THEME

Development and the quest
for modernity in Africa



SPEAKER

Prof Martin Ajei

My talk argues that conceptions of Africa's 'development' have been in the hands of non-Africans since development emerged as a goal to be pursued in the mid 20th century. I maintain that these conceptions and the strategies derived from them have failed, and defend the thesis that goals of development – however conceived – cannot succeed in implementation when they are formulated without the agency of their intended objects. I will consider these failed goals are plausibly unreasonable for their inattention to the thought that the stretch of Africa's history of social formation cannot be devoid of insights into the notion of social progress, and therefore of ideas about the continent's development. Were such inattention intentional disregard, but not mere oversight, one may justifiably consider its resultant goals immoral as well. Justification for my thesis rests on the notion of agency and its activation, particularly in theoretical perspectives on development by African philosophers. And as prescription for the failures of earlier conceptions, I will propose Gyekye's consequentialist moral theory according to which the ultimate end of social formation is the common good, as a viable basis for a progressive concept of development.

HEAVAs, Research Associates & Professional Associates

Honorary Professors

- Lord Peter Hain - British Parliament
- Prof N Barney Pitso - Rhodes University
- Prof Ihron Rensburg - Vaal University of Technology; King's College London
- Prof Shirley Anne Tate - University of Alberta
- Prof Paul Tiyambe Zeleza - United States International University-Africa
- Prof Michalinos Zembylas - Open University of Cyprus

Visiting Professors

- Prof Monisha Bajaj - University of San Francisco
- Prof Somadoda Fikeni - UNISA
- Prof Encarnacion Gutiérrez Rodríguez - Justus-Liebig-Universität
- Prof Xolela Mangcu - George Washington University
- Prof Rajani Naidoo - University of Bath
- Prof Michael Okyerefo - University of Ghana
- Prof Cláudio Costa Pinheiro - Rio de Janeiro Federal University
- Prof Felisa Tibbitts - Columbia University

Adjunct Professors

- Prof Jason Arday - Durham University
- Prof Verne Harris - Nelson Mandela Foundation

Research Associates

- Dr Jess Auerbach - North-West University
- Dr Dina Zoe Belluigi - Queen's University Belfast
- Dr Jeanette Botha - UNISA
- Dr Sophia Deterala - Kantar
- Dr Constantino Dumangane - University of York
- Dr Tara Fiorito - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- Prof Matthew W Hughey - University of Connecticut
- Prof Tshepo Madlingozi - Wits University
- Dr SN Nyeck - Bayreuth University
- Dr Saira Orakzai - University of Oxford; Harvard University
- Prof Uchenna Okeja - Rhodes University
- Dr April-Louise Pennant - Cardiff University
- Prof Dirk Postma - UNISA
- Dr Sahar D Sattarzadeh - DePauw University
- Dr Abraham Serote - Department of Basic Education
- Dr Mohammad Shabangu - Coby College
- Prof Sharon Stein - University of British Columbia

Professional Associates

- Mr Luzuko Buku - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
- Ms Siv Hesjedal - Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council





