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NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

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

Rethinking Legacies in the Midst of the War on Women's Bodies: A Feminist 'Ghost Dance' with Mandela

"Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression... Our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child."
Nelson Mandela, 1994

Twenty-five years after this assertion, girls and women are besieged by unprecedented levels of gendered violence, including violent rape and femicide. Unless things change drastically and fast, our country is facing a disastrous future. This presentation invites us to pause, in a sort of a 'ghost dance' with Mandela. The ghost dance is a Native American "ceremony for the regeneration of the earth, and, subsequently, the restoration of the earth's caretakers to their former life of bliss". We do so to ponder the questions: What would Mandela say about the state of South Africa in 2019? What would he say about our lack of respect for women and girls and their continuing brutalisation and assault in families, communities and institutions? What does the scholarship on Mandela offer, if anything, to feminists/feminism? What are the gaps and silences in the critique of Nelson Mandela – the man and the social/political figure? How might feminists and other critical scholars utilise Mandela as a tool for feminist scholarship and for social change through our teaching, research, community engagement and our daily activities in our institutions and communities?

Date: Friday, 26 JULY 2019

Time: 15h00 – 16h30

Venue: Drawing Room, Bird Street Campus (Transport leaves from Embizweni, South Campus, 13:30)

RSVP: [Click Here](#)

A seminar hosted by the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (*CriSHET*) as part of the Centenary Celebrations.