

South African Humanities Deans' Association

THE HUMANITIES AND POPULAR STRUGGLES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Venue: Faculty of Humanities Seminar Room, cnr Somerset and Prince Alfred Streets,
Rhodes University, Grahamstown
11-12 November 2011

THE HUMANITIES AND POPULAR STRUGGLES IN SA

There has been an upsurge of interest in the Humanities and their roles in contemporary South Africa over the last few months. A report commissioned by the Minister of Higher Education, entitled, The Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as the Consensus Study on the State of the Humanities in South Africa done under the auspices of the Academy of Science of South Africa have served as two vital reference points for current discussions and debate. This Colloquium attempts to situate Humanities and Social Science disciplines within a broader historical framework, especially in relation to their roles in the various problems and struggles of the local and global communities they inhabit. There have been dramatic changes in our society since 1994. Yet, in as much as our society has changed in certain respects, it has also remained the same in others. Within this context, the Colloquium is concerned with the dialectic of how humanities disciplines have been affected by societal changes as well as how they have contributed to them. It is designed to provide a platform for discussions on how it might be possible for us to reflect on our roles as scholars in relation to the broader society. There was a time when university-based scholars were central to the crucial debates in the various positions adopted in the struggle against apartheid. Today, under conditions of democracy, they are conspicuous by their absence in these debates. The Colloquium will enliven discussions on new paradigms and approaches for critical engagement on ways to make a positive contribution towards social change in the current period.

Programme:

Friday 11 November

08h15	Tea/Coffee on arrival
08h45 – 09h00	Opening Address: Saleem Badat: Vice Chancellor, Rhodes University
09h00 – 10h30	The Intellectual in Society Barney Pityana: Rector, College of the Transfiguration Steven Friedman: Political Analyst, Director Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Johannesburg
10h30-11h00	Tea/Coffee
11h00 – 13h00	Historiographies of Struggle in South Africa Luli Callinicos: Author Eddie Webster: Emeritus Professor, Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, SA Lungisile Ntsebeza: NRF Research Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa, Department of Sociology University of Cape Town
13h00-14h00	Lunch

14h00 – 15h30 **The Humanities and University Inequality**
Beverley Thaver: Lead Researcher, Centre for the Study of Higher Education, Education Faculty, University of the Western Cape
Sarah Mosoetsa: Deputy Director, Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Associate Researcher in the Society, Work and Development Institute and Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

15h30-15h45 Tea/Coffee

15h45 – 17h00 **Future Expectations/Directions of the Humanities**
John Pampallis, Special Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education
Mandisi Majavu, Independent scholar, book review editor for 'Interface: A Journal for and about Social movements' and a columnist for the South African Civil Society Information Service.

Saturday 12 November

08h30-10h00 **Reports on the Humanities in South Africa**
Ari Sitas: Director, Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor, Sociology Department, University of Cape Town
Rose Boswell: HOD of Anthropology and Deputy Dean of Humanities, Rhodes University
Fred Hendricks: Dean of Humanities, Rhodes University

10h00 – 10h15 Tea/Coffee

10h15 – 12h15 **The Humanities and Contemporary Popular Politics**
Richard Pithouse: Senior Lecturer and PhD candidate, Politics, Rhodes University
Nomboniso Gasa: Researcher and Analyst: Gender, Politics and Cultural Issues
Mazibuko Jara: former SACP spokesperson and the editor of Amandla Magazine
Robbie van Niekerk: Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University

12h15 Closing and Lunch

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