

The department of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics and the department of Sociology and Anthropology in collaboration with the School of Governmental and Social Sciences and School of Language, Media and Communication Present:

Language. Naming and Entangled Histories



Prof Nokuzola Mndende

Keynote Speaker



Event Facilitator

Chanel Van Der Merwe



Chief Jean Burgess

Keynote Speaker

30 June 2021 | 13:00-14:25

Zoom Webinar

Please click the link below to registrator for the webinar (Passcode: 337468)

(Click here)

Chanel van der Merwe

is a Lecturer in Applied Linguistics at Nelson Mandela University, and a PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests lie at the intersection between southern epistemologies, spaces of higher education, and the invention of languages.

Prof Nokuzola Mndende

is an adjunct professor in the Sociology and Anthropology department. With an extensive career in the areas of African Culture, Feminist/Womanist theology, African Spirituality, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, she is leader in Africa-Centred Knowledge Systems. Dr Mndende received her PhD in 2002 from the University of Cape Town, specialising in African Traditional Religion. She is a qualified diviner/Spirit medium (iGqirha). Dr Mndende thus straddles between two systems of thought as uGqirha (Dr) and iGqirha (qualified diviner) and uses the combination of these two systems to educate and consult for the national government, media houses, and legal fraternity on issues regarding indigenous institutions of health, gender, and religious systems. Currently she produces Ibuzwa Kwabaphambili (Ask the Elderly), a radio programme on Umhlobo Wenene FM, that won the Liberty National Radio Award in 2017. She is a first representative of African Religion of the Religious Broadcasting Panel of the SABC and presenter of African indigenous theology at Umhlobo Wenene FM. Dr Mndende was also a member of Parliament in the South African National Assembly between 1999 and 2003, and a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Religion in Education. She is a part-time Commissioner to the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and member of the advisory team that drafted the National Curriculum Statement (syllabus) on Religious Studies. She is an author and co-author of more than 15 journal articles, book chapters and children's storybooks

Chief Jean Burgess

Being an activist all of her life, Jean Burgess realized after the 1994 elections that the First Indigenous Peoples did not gain their freedom. She started to meet with First Indigenous Peoples across South Africa to build a unified front to address these issues.

In 1998 she, together with other KhoiSan peoples, were invited to attend the Fourth International Academic KhoiSan Conference held for the first time on African soil as observers. Academics from all over the world delivered papers that created the impression that the KhoiSan had died out. This made her realise a very worrying fact; they were written out of history. This was a strong motivation for her to attend the United Nation Forum on Indigenous Peoples the same year. She delivered a paper to set the record straight: to show to the Indigenous Peoples of the world that the KhoiSan is not dead.

She was invited to various International academic institutions and Indigenous Organizations to deliver papers on various topics. These include the university of Tromso in Norway. She also met with the Sami Parliament. The Indigenous Peoples of Peru invited her as a guest speaker at their annual South America conference. She also led the discussion on an Indigenous United Nations. One issue that remains painful to her is the fact that none of the languages of the KhoiSan is an official language in our country. She is passionate about the restoration of her Peoples and has continued tirelessly to raise awareness and to lobby for their rights.

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13:00 - 13:05	Opening and Welcome	Prof Nomalanga Mkhize (Nelson Mandela University)
13:06 - 13:10	Introduction of the keynote Speaker	Dr Gabby Dlamini
13:10 - 13:30	First Keynote Address	Prof Nokuzola Mndende
13:10 - 13:30	Second Keynote Address	Chief Jean Burgess
13:10 -14:20	Q & A Session	
14:20 - 14:25	Closing and Vote of thanks	Mr David Blignaut

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