



UNIVERSITY OF
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COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Humanities Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize
cordially invites you to the



JOHN LANGALIBALELE DUBE

MEMORIAL LECTURE 2023

Theme:

Celebrating 150 years of
Nokuthela Dube

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DATE:

Thursday,
14 September 2022

TIME:

LT10, Phyllis Naidoo Lecture Theatre,
Edgewood Campus, UKZN, Pinetown

TIME:

18h30 - 20h30

SPEAKER:

Professor Siphamandla Zondi (University of Johannesburg)

ABSTRACT:

Treading in Shifting Sands: A Portrait of John and Nokuthela Dube

Remarkable people of our history are those who read their times, understood the exigencies of their constituencies, and decided the best course of their action in the circumstances. These are marked not by epic stories of incessant triumphs without odds, but by ambiguities that come with standing on shifting sands. This is the complexity of living through the shadow of death, crossing the line between non-being and being; defying the designs to nothingness African people pulled through in colonial settings. This is about the mystery of leading boldly in times of oppression, often defining and redefining what courage means in each context, what being bold entails in each epoch in the passage of time. It is about those who chose to make life out of dead situations and sought to give meaning to times of meaningless pursuits. John Langalibalele and Nokuthela uMaMdima Dube lived through times of sea changes in southern Africa and in the colonial world as a whole. This was the period of consolidation of colonialism and expansion of its civilising mission; a period of massive disruption of the political economy that defined what it meant to live and live well in a society engulfed in imperialist fires and passions. It is a period of modernity expanding with its message of hope, salvation and civilisation ironically demanding a huge price for the indigenous peoples including the loss of their civilisation and ways of being. The Dube family was a prominent part of the mission-educated African elite buffeted by the promise of modernity and the experience of barbarity at the hands of the same modernity. This lecture will locate them, their thoughts and their actions in this sense of shifting sands and changing meanings of what it means to resist and persist. We seek to explain the ambiguities of their positioning and outlook amidst these uncertain shifts. It will suggest that it is these ambiguities that make them remarkable amid crosswinds, turbulences, and storms. The lecture invites us to consider lessons from this for us who live today in stormy times of hopes and despair, progress and regress. This is so that we might answer the question: what do we read in the times and what do we do in the moment?

RESPONDENT:

Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY:



Professor Siphamandla Zondi is the director of the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation and co-director of the Institute for Global African Affairs, jointly founded by the University of Johannesburg and the University of the West Indies. These institutes are joined by their commitment to rethinking the role and position of Africa and its diaspora in a changing world. He is also a commissioner on the National Planning Commission and trustee of the International Third World Leaders Association founded by the late Dr Myles Munroe. He previously headed the Institute for Global Dialogue and the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria. Nondaba writes on the decolonisation of being, power and knowledge. He is public speaker, leadership trainer and a public intellectual.

RESPONDENT BIOGRAPHY:



Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa is the Dean and Head of School of Arts at UKZN. She held key roles, including Dean of Teaching and Learning (2012-2017) and Head of the School of isiZulu Studies (2005-2007). Notably, she represents UKZN in the Community of Practice for African Language teaching and learning. Hlongwa has a C2 NRF rating and Google Scholar H-Index of 11. She's a prolific researcher with impactful publications, including isiZulu works that elevate it as a scholarly language. Her book "Ukuhlelwa Kolimi" (2009) remains a sole isiZulu Sociolinguistics work. She is the chair CoPAL and has advised on African Language development. A grant recipient, she's led projects funded by Mellon Foundation, EU Erasmus+, and more. Professor Hlongwa is a respected reviewer for international and South African journals. Awards include the Mellon Merit Award and recognition for promoting bilingualism

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