



## **Call for Papers (invited scholars)**

### ***Research Colloquium:***

## **Diversity and the Politics of Engaged Scholarship**

### **A Comparative study in Higher Education**

30-31 January 2014, Bloemfontein, South Africa

Conveners: JC v.d. Merwe (University of the Free State, IRSJ) and Frans Kamsteeg (VU, Amsterdam, Organization Sciences)

### **Background**

A range of national and globalizing processes of a cultural, political, economic and social nature, together with the dramatic increase in student participation and mobility in higher education worldwide, has brought the reality of diversity into the operational spaces of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In the context of this diversity, HEIs are presented with productive options to foster critical debate and to advance social justice.

### **Comparative and interdisciplinary approach**

This colloquium will explore how scholars from various disciplines engage in studying diversity in higher education, what this engagement means for the results of their work, what topics they choose, what approaches they employ, and how they disseminate their findings. The organizers, researchers from UFS and VUA, pay specific attention to what it means to study diversity in settings as different from one another as the Netherlands, South Africa and the USA.

In South Africa, all HEIs struggle with the transformation process on a number of levels: the demand for redress and equality; knowledge diversity; quality education; academic excellence; and diversity in teaching and learning. In the Netherlands and USA, universities are also challenged by the demands of an increasingly diversified student population; and its implications for engaged scholarship.

### **Themes and proposals**

We invite abstracts of 400 words on one of the following themes:

1. Institutional culture and diversity.
2. First generation students' experiences.

3. Diversity strategies, policies and practices.
4. Inclusion and exclusion: HEIs as communities.
5. Engaged and responsible scholarship
6. Diversity, transformation and human rights.
7. Multiple and situated identities: students, scholars, managers.

We welcome theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions on policy studies, engaged scholarship, student interaction, curriculum, teaching and learning, and research.

### **Organization and Outcomes**

The colloquium is a co-effort between VU, Amsterdam and UFS, Bloemfontein. It will be held on the Bloemfontein campus, in cooperation with the IRSJ – Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice (Prof. André Keet, JC v.d. Merwe, Dionne van Reenen) and CHECaR – Centre for Higher Education and Research (Dr. Sonja Loots). Specific input from VU will come from the Sociology Department (Prof. Halleh Ghorashi, Prof. Maurice Crul; TBC) and the Organization Sciences Department (Dr. Frans Kamsteeg, Dr. Ida Sabelis; TBC).

The outcomes of the colloquium are:

- Sharing of and engagement with research papers
- Peer collaboration and collaborative learning
- Special edition (journal)
- Edited compilation (book)
- Framework planning for next colloquium

### **Deadline**

Please submit your abstract by 12h00 on **8 November 2013** to [vdmjc@ufs.ac.za](mailto:vdmjc@ufs.ac.za) (JC), [frans.kamsteeg@vu.nl](mailto:frans.kamsteeg@vu.nl) (Frans) and [keeta@ufs.ac.za](mailto:keeta@ufs.ac.za) (Andre).