

## **Conference on non-racialism in South Africa – past, present and future:**

**Debates and controversies**

**27-29 August 2015**

**Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)**

**Port Elizabeth, South Africa**

### **Call for Papers**

The South African liberation movement aspired to build a new South Africa that broke decisively from its racial past – a past founded on the oppression and exploitation of the black majority. But twenty years after democracy, racial divisions remain stark. Rural poverty is racialised and feminised. Black mine workers live a precarious existence. Racial stereotypes abound, experienced in day-to-day conversations, songs, political slogans and xenophobia.

This conference seeks to explore the reasons for the endurance and even resurgence of racial beliefs and practices despite the formal end of apartheid. It hopes that a critical evaluation of past approaches to non-racialism, including the recovery of marginalised thinkers and approaches, can enrich our understanding of contemporary practice and problems. The conference will also encourage debate that explores ‘solutions’ to the current malaise, beyond bureaucratic or state-driven initiatives, and examining issues such as social agency and activism, particularly within the context of ongoing developments in civil society and in state-society relations.

We encourage academics, organic intellectuals and activists to submit papers or propose panels of three papers on this theme. We are open to ideas. Suggested topics include:

- Non-racialism and anti-racism: what is the relationship, and can they be combined in popular struggles?
- What is the relationship of class and colour post 1994
- Has capitalism been deracialised?
- Non-racialism and political parties: is it possible to move beyond a race-based politics?

- Non-racialism and popular struggles: case studies of practical attempts to promote non-racialism in popular struggles
- Anti-racism, non-racialism and culture
- Confronting racism in Literature, Performance and Art
- Marginalized thinkers, movements and approaches to non-racialism
- Non-racialism and multi-racialism – historical perspectives
- Explaining the persistence of racial identities
- Race, Class and Xenophobia
- Comparative perspectives

If you wish to present a paper, please send an abstract of one or two paragraphs, including your name, organisation (if applicable) and contact details. If you wish to propose a panel, your proposal should include the authors' names, titles and abstracts for all three papers, and a brief rationale of how the papers complement each other.

Please note that conference proceedings will be published.

The deadline for submitting paper abstracts and/or panel proposals is **31 January 2015**.  
 Announcement and acceptance of abstracts and/or panel proposals: **28 February 2015**  
 Date for submission of final papers: **30 June 2015**

Please send your abstracts/panel proposals to Prof Gilingwe Mayende:  
[Gilingwe.Mayende@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:Gilingwe.Mayende@nmmu.ac.za)

The contact person for Enquiries is Mr Sonwabo Stuurman:  
[Sonwabo.Stuurman@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:Sonwabo.Stuurman@nmmu.ac.za) or (041) 504 4898