

Fragility and Resilience

Facets, Features and (Trans)Formations in Higher Education

**Centenary Complex, University of the Free State (UFS)
Bloemfontein, South Africa**

28 - 31 January 2020

UCLA



Tuesday, 28 January 2020

17h30

Meet & Greet at the Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, DF Malherbe House, Graduandi Lane, UFS (Bloemfontein).

Welcome: Francis Petersen, Rector and Vice Chancellor, University of the Free State (UFS) and Gene Block, Chancellor, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

Day 1: Centenary Complex, UFS.

08h00-08h45

Registration and refreshments

08h45-09h00

Conference opening: Puleng LenkaBula (Deputy Vice Chancellor: Student Affairs, Institutional Change and Engaged Scholarship, UFS)

09h00-10h00

Keynote address: Michalinos Zembylas (Professor of Educational Theory and Curriculum Studies, Open University of Cyprus; Research Associate, University of the Free State; Honorary Professor, Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University)

Against the Psychologization of *Resilience*: Towards an Onto-Political Theorization of the Concept and its Implications for Higher Education

Chair: Abel Valenzuela (Professor and Director, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Immigration Policy (UCLA))

10h15-11h45

Panel Presentations: Views from the USA on resilience and fragility in the academy

Presenters: John Grider (Chair: History Department. University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Research Fellow with the UFS)

'Inclusive excellence' at UWL

Billy Huff (Lecturer, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and Research Fellow with the UFS)

Are Fragility and Resilience Two Sides of the Same Coin?: On Embracing Desiring Bodies in the Academy

Pat Turner (Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education, UCLA)

Fragility and resilience at UCLA

Chair: Nonki Motahane (UFS)

11h45-13h15

Panel presentations: Universities and environmental accountability

Carolina Suransky (Professor, University of Humanistic Studies, Netherlands and Research Fellow at the UFS)

Universities and their glocal relevance in times of climate justice and decoloniality

	<p>Harry Wels (VUA)</p> <p>Diversities in times of climate crisis</p> <p>Isolde de Villiers (Postdoctoral fellow at the Free State Centre for Human Rights, UFS)</p> <p>Cities, universities and “citadinship”</p> <p>Chair: Bertha Kibona (UFS)</p>
11h45-13h15	<p>Panel Presentations: Student experiences with fragility and resilience</p> <p>Fumane Khanare, Ntombizandile Gcelu, Pearl Larey, Lihle Ndlovu (UFS and associates)</p> <p>“Room at the top”! Using counter-stories to narrate our lived experiences of fragilities and resiliencies in higher education institutions in South Africa</p> <p>Frans Kamsteeg (VUA)</p> <p>The Ambiguity of Change: the stories that South African student narratives tell.</p> <p>Liezl Dick, Pulane Malefane, Marguerite Muller (UFS)</p> <p>Keeping up with changing times: Student leaders, resilience, fragility and professional development</p> <p>Chair: Eden Elfersy (VUA)</p>
13h15-14h15	<p>Lunch</p>
14h15-16h15	<p>Student panel presentation and discussion (Students from UFS, VUA and UCLA)</p> <p>A conversation on students’ perspectives of divisions from between women in the academy and establishing practices of meaningful allyship as a form of resilience and resistance towards solidarity.</p> <p>UFS students: Nonki Motohane, Tammy Fray and Mpho Nhlapo</p> <p>UCLA students: Nina Monet Reynoso and Ariel Mengistu</p> <p>VUA students: Eden Elfersy and Magda Michael Mose</p> <p>Facilitator: Dionne van Reenen (UFS)</p>
17h30	<p>BOOK LAUNCH (Venue: UIC Lounge, DF Malherbe House)</p> <p>Title: Unequal Accommodation of Minority Rights: Hungarians in Transylvania</p> <p>(Edited by Tamás Kiss, István Gergő Székely, Tibor Toró, Nándor Bárdi and István Horváth)</p> <p>Moderator: Luis Escobedo (Postdoctoral Fellow, Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, UFS)</p> <p>Discussants: Komlan Agbedahin (Postdoctoral Fellow, Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, and Nombulelo Shange, Department of Sociology, UFS)</p>

Thursday, 30 January 2020
Day 2: Centenary Complex, UFS.

08h15	Refreshments in the foyer
09h00-10h00	<p>Keynote address: Itumeleng Khumalo (Associate Professor: Psychology, UFS)</p> <p>The nature and role of student hope and meaning in goal setting and life satisfaction: Implications for higher education in South Africa</p> <p>Chair: Carolina Suransky (Professor, University of Humanistic Studies, Netherlands and Research Fellow at the UFS)</p>
10h15-11h45	<p>Panel presentations: Student engagement and well-being in higher education</p> <p>Presenters: Mpho Jama and Mathuli Mbhamali (Faculty of Health Sciences, UFS)</p> <p>The fragility and resilience of Gen-Zers: a mental health dilemma</p> <p>Shalom Staub (Director of the Center for Community Learning, UCLA)</p> <p>Exploring the relationship between engaged learning and student wellbeing: Implications for mental health and resilience</p> <p>Maaïke Mutinga (VUA)</p> <p>Curriculize equity now! From participatory action to extracurricular organising in medical education</p> <p>Chair: Charles Alexander (Associate Vice Provost for Student Diversity; Director, Academic Advancement Program; Associate Adjunct Professor, UCLA).</p>
11h45-13h15	<p>Views from Africa on higher education and the public good</p> <p>Moitshepi Thembalisa Lipholo (UFS)</p> <p>Fragility, resilience and the political economy of universities</p> <p>Komlan Agbedahin (Postdoctoral Fellow, UFS)</p> <p>Weathering the storm of xenophobia from a distance: International students' experiences</p> <p>Bertha Kibona (UFS)</p> <p>Operationalizing social justice in Tanzanian higher education for the public good.</p> <p>Chair: Monique Kwachou (UFS)</p>
13h15-14h15	Lunch

14h15-15h45

Panel presentations: Women, resilience and change in higher education
Cindy Fan (Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement, UCLA)

Stories of Women in China: Reflections of a Migrant and Academic
Monique Kwachou (UFS)

Too much book: A capabilities and African feminist based investigation of Cameroonian women's empowerment through higher education
Fumane Khanare and Tshego Setilo (UFS)

"These gowns don't fit"! Deepening our understanding of the graduation main procession as a path from being a fragile to a resilient women academic

Chair: Tammy Fray (UFS)

14h15-15h45

Panel Presentations: Negotiating identity and relationality in diverse universities

Eden Elfersy and Magda Michael Mose (VUA)

Connecting through struggle – building resilience
Luis Escobedo (Postdoctoral Fellow, UFS)

Shifting social relations and national identity practices of a Peruvian scholar in Bloemfontein
Wim Haan (VUA)

The Man with the Many Hats: Tensions between Free Speech on Campus and necessary safe places for students and staff members of underrepresented groups.
Chair: Nina Monet Reynoso (UCLA)

16h00-16h45

Closing address and summary remarks: Ruard Ganzevoort (Chief Diversity Officer, Dean: Religion and Theology, VUA and Research Fellow with the Faculty of Theology at the UFS)

Title: The good, the bad, and the ugly. Negotiating the dilemmas of intersectional policies in a pluralistic university
Chair: Mpho Jama (UFS)

16h45-17h00

Closing and thank you's with participants' suggestions for 2020 themes: JC van der Merwe (UFS)

17h30

17h30 Farewell braai for all participants, DF Malherbe House, Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, UFS

Friday, 31 January 2020
Day 3: Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, UFS.

09h00	Research meeting (Conveners and organizers of the Diversity in Higher Education collaboration at the Unit Lounge)
09h30	Campus Walking Tour: Xolile and student volunteers to meet interested participants outside the Unit
11h00	Methodological workshop at UFS Postgraduate School with Tamás Kiss on Investigating minority communities: the role of minority political agency and meso-level institutions

Further meetings and departures as per own arrangements.