



Biography: Doreen Tivenga

Doreen Rumbidzai Tivenga is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of English at the University of the Free State. Her research, which focuses on South African and Southern African urban youth cultures and Literatures, examines the nature of various depictions and performances of youth cultural and literary productions. Doreen has published articles in *Tydiskrif Vir Letterkunde* and the *Journal of Black Studies*.



Invitation | “Born Free? Youth Reflections on Post 1994 South Africa in *Thought we had Something Going*”

Date: Thursday, 5 Sept 2019
Time: 10:30 - 12:00
Place: FGG 201

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Abstract: Born free? This is the central question that young writers of short stories in the 2015 Sangqu edited anthology, *Thought We Had Something Going*, contend with as they seek to contribute to South African literary discourses and make their own representations and reflections on what it means to be a youth in post 1994 South Africa. The focus of this paper is specifically on the stories “Hashtag #WhiteGirlsInNyanga: An Anecdotal Reflection on Racial Affinity and Racial Identity in a Post-Apartheid South Africa”, “The Youth is Dark and Full of Bullshit” and “Skhothane Behaviour”. I explore the paradoxes that characterise the stories and are associated with characters’ lived experiences; and drawing on the concepts of space and conspicuous consumption, I examine how remnants and legacies of apartheid continue to shape, define, and influence youth behaviours, experiences and lifestyles. Key in these stories is the revelation that ‘born free’ is a superficial notion that is far from a true reflection of the conditions of being youth in post 1994 South Africa.