



Invitation | Remembered, recognised, contextualised: Post-apartheid contestations about the meanings of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela by Prof. Pumla Dineo Gqola

ABSTRACT: Abundant international commentary exists on the symbolic value and meanings of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's agency. Much of this written material tends to mythologise her to a variety of sometimes divergent (political) ends. Against this backdrop, the scarcity of matter influenced by feminist and other progressive critical viewpoints is notable. This is particularly so given the fascination with studying leading figures in South African politics, and the ongoing proliferation of material about Ms Madikizela-Mandela in academic, popular, legal, creative and political spheres globally. In post-apartheid public culture, Madikizela-Mandela remains a 'polarising figure'. This paper traces and interrogates some of the contestations around contemporary representations of Winnie Mandela using critical race and feminist lenses.

BIO: Pumla Dineo Gqola is the feminist author of *What is slavery to me? Postcolonial/slave memory in post-apartheid South Africa*, published by WitsPress in 2010, and *A Renegade called Simphiwe* published under the Melinda Ferguson Books Joburg imprint at Jacana in 2013. She is Associate Professor of African literary and gender studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. Gqola has an active teaching and research interest in African, postcolonial and feminist literatures of the African world, and has published widely on slave memory, Black Consciousness literature, post-apartheid public culture and African feminisms. She has MA degrees from the Universities of Cape Town and Warwick (UK), and a PhD from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

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