

# MIND-ALTERING

# BOOK TALK

# 2025



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# MIND-ALTERING BOOK TALK

## DATE:

16 September 2025

## TIME:

10:00–12:00

## VENUE:

Bloemfontein Campus  
Sasol Library II MR2

## HYBRID EVENT PROGRAMME

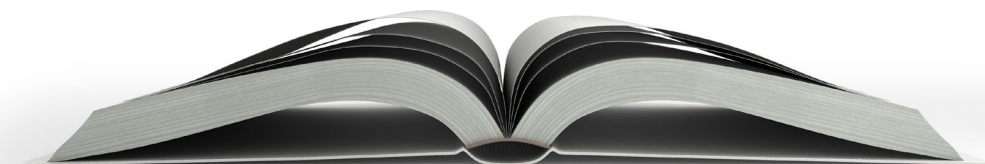
■ Welcome Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, Prof Vasu Reddy	10:00–10:05
■ Moderator: Dr Rosaline Sebolao	10:05–10:10
■ Dr Hussein Solomon (MASSAf)	10:10–10:25
■ Dr Kudzayi Ngara PhD	10:25–10:45
■ <b>FIVE-MINUTE BREAK</b>	10:45–10:55
■ Dr Herkulaas MvE Combrink	10:55–11:15
■ Prof Neo Lekgotla Iaga Ramoupi	11:35–11:55
■ Vote of thanks: Jeannet Molopyane, UFS LIS Director	11:55–12:00
■ <b>CLOSING: DR ROSALINE SEBOLAO</b>	12:00

## MODERATOR DR ROSALINE SEBOLAO

Dr Rosaline Sebolao is a professional coach and a social entrepreneur. Since 2020, she has been serving as Teaching and Learning Manager in the Faculty of The Humanities at the University of the Free State. She holds a doctoral qualification in Business Administration and a postgraduate diploma in Higher Education for Academic Developers. In 2013, she started serving in higher education as Peer Mentorship Coordinator, then as Teaching and Learning Coordinator, and later as Manager: Special Projects, Teaching and Learning at the Central University of Technology, Free State.

She managed the University Capacity Development Grant from 2015 until 2019 and participated in academic staff development, as well as coordinating student development. Dr Sebolao served in HELTASA as a Special Interest Group co-convener for one year and then as Treasurer for about three years.

Since 2015, she has been active in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and has been mentoring since 2018. In 2021, she initiated the Faculty SoTL project and is now leading a humanities-engaged scholarship project in the Soutpan Ikgomotseng community.





## PROF HUSSEIN SOLOMON (MASSAF)

Prof Hussein Solomon is from the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies. He is the former Nelson Mandela Chair in Africa Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and is currently Visiting Professor at Stellenbosch University, Nelson Mandela University, North-West University, and the University of Osaka.

He is also a Senior Research Associate of the Jerusalem-based Research on Islam and Muslims in Africa (RIMA) and holds the rank of Captain in the South African Air Force Reserves. His more than 300 publications cover issues as diverse as political Islam, African security, the LGBTQI community in the Middle East, and the United Nations.



## PROF NEO LEKGOTLA LAGA RAMOUPHI

Prof Neo Lekgotla laga Ramoupi is Associate Professor and Mellon Inclusive Professoriate Fellow 2023-2024 in the Department of History at the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein, Free State. He was born in Lady Syllborne, Pretoria, raised and schooled in the Ga-Rankuwa township in the then Bophuthatswana homeland, where he started his academic studies at the University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBO) in 1987. In 1989 he transferred to the former University of Natal, Durban (UND), where he received all his degrees up to MA History (1989-1998). From 2000 to 2003, Prof Ramoupi was a researcher and oral historian at the Robben Island Museum in Cape Town.

In August 2003 he was awarded the Ford Foundation International Fellowship at Howard University in Washington D.C., USA, to further his studies at PhD level. He graduated from Howard University in May 2013 with a PhD in African History as major, and minors in African Studies and Public History. As Senior Lecturer, Prof Ramoupi taught History of Education at the Wits School of Education for five years (2018-2022) before joining the UFS in September 2022 as Associate Professor.

While at Wits, he co-edited Robben Island Rainbow Dreams: The Making of Democratic South Africa's First National Heritage Institution, published in 2021. Prof Ramoupi is the recipient of the 2023 UFS Humanities Excellence Award: Curriculum Development, Transformation, and Renewal.



Prof Ramoupi delivered the 28th Annual Bob Marley Lecture at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Jamaica on 13 February 2025. He is the author of Robben Island: Songs of Struggle – Izingingoma Zomzabalazo, published in April 2025.

His current research and writing project are the Mellon-funded book titled The Centenary History of the SANNC/ANC Through the Medium of the Songs, Heritage, Arts, Culture and Liberation, 1912-2012. His research and teaching foci are decolonising and Africanisation of (South) African history, history of education, and heritage.

Prof Ramoupi is a member of the editorial boards of African Historical Review at UNISA, Black Histories: Dialogues, and Yesterday and Today Journal for History Education in South Africa and Abroad, and he is advisory board member of America's Voices Against Apartheid (AVAA).

## DR KUDZAYI NGARA



**D**r Kudzayi Ngara is Senior Lecturer and Subject Head of English Literary and Cultural Studies on the University of the Free State Qwaqwa Campus.

His primary research interests lie broadly in the field of postcolonial literature, with the majority of his published works exploring themes of migration and urban spaces – with a particular focus on South African literature.

His scholarship examines the works of authors such as Ivan Vladislavić and Zakes Mda, by analysing how their different narratives reflect on and engage with issues of identity, history, and social transition in post-apartheid South Africa.

With this research, he has contributed to the broader understanding of postcolonial discourse and its impact on cultural and literary landscapes by focusing on how literary imaginings and representations of cityscapes (by means of fiction and 'creative non-fiction') offer different (to geographical, anthropological, and ethnological approaches towards studies of African urbanity) but complementary pathways to uncovering the fluid and contradictory qualities that mark many African cities as sites of social, economic, and cultural transformation, as well as spaces in which notions of contested identities are spatialised.

Currently he is also working on a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) collaborative project that is investigating the outcomes of using video podcasting as an innovative assessment method that replaces some traditional written assessments to provide students in higher education with alternative modes of knowledge expression/production.

## DR HERKULAAS MVE COMBRINK

**D**r Herkulaas MVE Combrink is Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures at the University of the Free State. Dr Combrink specialises in infodemiology, computational infodemiology, human language technology, and artificial intelligence.

Dr Combrink has contributed significantly to data science for social impact by combining data analytics, data science, artificial intelligence, health, education, and policy for better societal outcomes. He was the PI of a multi-institutional human language technology project funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, an international project funded by the British Academy, and national funding through the Struwig Cancer Trust.





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