

RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE HISTORIES
OF UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA
NATIONAL WORKSHOP PROGRAMME
15-18 MAY 2022

A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL™
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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The Research Project on the Histories of Universities in South Africa has two core interrelated research goals. The first is to produce a rigorously researched, peer-reviewed scholarly book that analyses the purposes, functions and roles of universities in South Africa between 1829 and today. The second research goal is to promote, to support and to undertake, in partnership with various universities, rigorous, critical, peer-reviewed histories of individual, and especially historically black, universities in South Africa, as well as different groupings of universities (historically white, historically black, traditional universities, universities of technology, comprehensive universities).

A number of universities have committed themselves to or have expressed interest in participating in the Histories of Universities Research and Training Project. They are Stellenbosch University, University of Pretoria, University of the Free State, University of Johannesburg, University of the Western Cape, the University of Venda, the University of Zululand, Durban University of Technology, Central University of Technology and Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Beyond its research goals, the Research Project has complementary goals. These are

1. To publish the results of the research in the form of peer-reviewed books, book chapters and articles.
2. To promote scholarly engagement on questions of concern to the research project through seminars, workshops and conferences, and

3. To contribute to redressing the current social inequalities in the composition of the academy and knowledge creation through cultivating outstanding scholars and researchers from historically disadvantaged social backgrounds by involving early career scholars, post-doctoral fellows and doctoral and masters students in the research project.

The workshop brings together scholars who have written histories of universities or are working on such histories, and early career scholars, postdocs and PhD students who are linked in different ways to the Research Project on the Histories of Universities in South Africa (RPHUSA).

The purpose of the workshop is for the scholars

- To come together for the first time and constitute a loose network whose members engage with, learn from and support each other.
- To share developments to date related to the RPHUSA.
- To help shape the RPHUSA intellectually and institutionally as it evolves.
- To consider academic and strategic questions and issues pertinent to the RPHUSA.



PROGRAMME

DAY 1: SUNDAY, 15 MAY 2022		
09.00 – 18.00	Arrival of participants	
18.30 – 21.00	Dinner at Oude Werf Hotel, 30 Church Street, Stellenbosch	
DAY 2: MONDAY, 16 MAY 2022		
08.30 – 09.00	Departure of participants for STIAS	
09.00 – 09.30	Opening remarks and introductions	Saleem Badat
09.30 – 09.40	Welcome	Director of STIAS, Prof Edward Kirumira
09.40 – 10.20	Presentation: Research Project on the Histories of Universities in South Africa: Developments to date	Saleem Badat
	Discussion	
10.20 – 10.40	Tea Break and Group photo (20m)	
10.40 – 12.30	Chair: Goolam Vahed	
	Presentation: Historiography of research on universities in South Africa	Paul Maylam
	Discussion	<i>Discussant:</i> Bronwyn Strydom
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch (75m)	
13.45 – 15.30	Chair: Shireen Motala	
	<p>Presentations: Researching and writing the histories of universities I.</p> <p>Presentations should as far as is possible and relevant address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purposes, goals and context of the writing of the history • The methodological approach • The key themes and how those were determined • The sources that were used • The challenges of writing more contemporary history • The problems of writing a commissioned history, especially if the commissioner is your employer • The intended readership and how this influenced the writing and text • Enabling conditions and significant challenges • Key lessons that can be shared with those working on histories currently and • What, in hindsight, you may do differently today. 	<p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Cape Town (Howard Phillips) • University of KwaZulu-Natal (Bill Guest; read by Paul Maylam) • Rhodes University (Paul Maylam) • University of Pretoria (Bronwyn Strydom) • University of Fort Hare (Luvuyo Wotshela and Mcebisi Ndletyana)
15.30 – 15.50	Tea Break (20m)	
15.50 – 17.30	Researching and writing the histories of universities I (continued)	
	Discussion	<i>Discussant:</i> Goolam Vahed
19.00 –	Dinner	
End of Day		

DAY 3: TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022

09.00 – 10.30	Chair: Handri Walters	
	<p><i>Presentations: Researching and writing the histories of universities II</i></p> <p>Presentations should as far as is possible and relevant address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purposes, goals and context of the writing of the history • The proposed methodological approach • The key themes and how you will determine these • The sources that you will use • Any challenges you envisage writing more contemporary history • Any problems you envisage of writing a history if your institution is providing the funding • The intended readership and how this may influence the writing and text • Enabling conditions and significant challenges • Key lessons that you can share with others who are working on histories currently. 	<p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stellenbosch University (Albert Grundlingh) • University of Durban-Westville (Goolam Vahed) • Durban University of Technology (Aradhana Mansingh) • University of Johannesburg (Logan Govender and Tshepo Moloi) • University of Limpopo (Reatile Moncho) • Historically Black Universities (Anne Heffernan)
10.30 – 10.50	Tea Break (20m)	
10.50 – 12.30	Researching and writing the histories of universities II (continued)	
	Discussion	<i>Discussant:</i> Karen Harris
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch Break (75m)	
13.45 – 15.15	Chair: Luvuyo Wotshela	
	<p><i>Presentation: Researching and writing a history of universities in South Africa</i></p> <p>The concern is to trace the origins and development of universities in South Africa through analysing the purposes, functions, goals, roles and objects that historically were defined for specific universities, groups of universities and for universities in South Africa more generally. The issues include how and by whom were they defined; what conditions and ideas shaped the definitions; how did definitions change over time and to what extent, in what ways, and why did the actual pursuits of universities perhaps differ from the stated ones. Put differently, this raises the questions of whose purposes, functions, goals and roles those were, how they were constituted, how they were shaped by time, place and space and how and why they may have changed.</p> <p>The idea is to examine the colonial (1652-1910), segregation (1910-1948), apartheid (1948-1994) and post-1994 periods. During each period, there will be analysis of the structural and conjunctural conditions in the economy, polity and society, the prevailing intellectual and scientific milieus and the thinking, human agency, conflicts and contestations that shaped universities and the conceptions of their purposes, functions, goals, roles and objects.</p> <p>The presentation will share the proposed methodological framing of the research.</p>	Saleem Badat
	Discussion	<i>Discussant:</i> Paul Maylam
15.15 – 15.35	Tea Break (20m)	

15.35 – 16.35	Chair: Tshepo Moloji	
	<i>Presentation: Wits Imagined - Wits University's Public Roles and Responsibilities, 1922 -1994</i>	Rehana Odendaal, digital presentation from the US
	Discussion	
16.40 – 17.40	Chair: Aradhana Mansingh	
	<i>Presentation: Histories of disciplines I</i> Thinking the 'Coloured Question' at Stellenbosch University and the University of Pretoria	<i>Presenter:</i> Janeke Thumbran
	Discussion	
19:00 –	Dinner	
End of Day		

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022		
09.00 – 10.00	Chair: Tigere Muringa	
	<i>Presentation: Histories of disciplines II</i> Race, science and politics at Stellenbosch University	<i>Presenter:</i> Handri Walters
	Discussion	<i>Discussant:</i> Wouter de Wet
10:00 – 10.20	Tea Break (20m)	
10.20 – 12.30	Tour of Stellenbosch University and a visit to the University archives	Albert Grundlingh and Karlien Breedt
12:45 – 14.00	Lunch Break (75m)	
14:00 – 14.30	Next Steps – dissemination of research in progress, publishing, convenings, etc.	Saleem Badat
14:30 – 14.40	Close of workshop	
14.40 –	Departure of participants	

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Institution
Prof Saleem Badat	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Dr Wouter de Wet	University of the Free State
Dr Logan Govender	University of Johannesburg
Prof Albert Grundlingh	Stellenbosch University
Prof Karen Harris	University of Pretoria
Dr Anne Heffernan	Durham University
Dr Aradhana Mansingh	Durban University of Technology
Prof Paul Maylam	Rhodes University
Dr Tshepo Mloi	University of Johannesburg
Mr Reatile Moncho	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Prof Shireen Motala	University of Johannesburg
Dr Tigere Muringa	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Rehana Oodendaal	University of Pennsylvania
Prof Howard Phillip	University of Cape Town
Dr Bronwyn Strydom	University of Pretoria
Dr Janeke Thumbran	Rhodes University
Prof Goolam Vahed	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Dr Handri Walters	Stellenbosch University
Prof Luvuyo Wotshela	University of Fort Hare

STIAS TEAM

Prof Edward Kirumira	Director
Dr Christof Pauw	Programme Manager
Ms Nel-Mari Looek	Programme Coordinator
Ms Georgina Humphreys	General Logistics Administrator

