

“Transformation in Universities in Post-1994 South Africa”

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Monday, November 28, 2016
4:00 PM
10383 Bunche Hall
Free and open to the public

The presentation focuses on the past 22 years (1994-2016) of South Africa’s democratic dispensation; in particular, the transformation of the Schooling and University systems. This talk addresses issues of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion & Exclusion, Curricula, Language Policy-In-Education, Faculty Demography and including hate-speech, that are all engrained in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996).

Tragically, these constitutional concerns have not been genuinely and tangibly addressed; and the black rage by predominantly black (Africans, Coloureds and Indian South Africans)—that were not even born when Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990—has resulted in the post-apartheid Student Movements of the #Rhodes Must Fall, #Fees Must Fall, #Open Stellenbosch, #Afrikaans Must Fall. The Universities’ student protests have revived the spirit of youth activism that was the hallmark of the anti-apartheid struggle inside South Africa; spilling into the Pretoria Girls High whose black girls took the might of the white-led school management/administration protesting against the school’s Hair Policy—that coincidentally and powerfully took place at the time that Angela Davis, the American political activist and distinguished professor emerita in the history of consciousness and feminist studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, was visiting South Africa to present the 2016 Steve Biko Memorial Lecture keynote address at the University of South Africa (UNISA), in the vicinity of Pretoria Girls High School in Pretoria.

Neo Lekgotla laga Ramoupi, PhD, is a South African citizen; a Ford Foundation International Fellow (2003-2006); a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he received his PhD in African history, with minors in Public history and African Studies in May 2013. Ramoupi is a 2016 African Humanities Programme (AHP) Post-Doctoral Fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). He’s writing a book, *A Culture History of Robben Island: Izingoma Zo Mzabalazo Esiqithini!* (Struggle Songs on Robben Island); which was the subject of his doctoral dissertation about the Robben Island Maximum Security Prison in Cape Town, South Africa. Previous to studying at Howard, Ramoupi was a Researcher and Oral Historian at the Robben Island Museum, a World Heritage Site in Cape Town.

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