



# NEWSLETTER

DST-NRF CENTRE IN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

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## Historic Monuments and Symbols at University of KwaZulu-Natal



Statue of King George V on the  
Howard College campus.

UKZN held a series of panel discussions at all five campuses on the University's statues, historic symbols and artefacts with students and staff weighing in on the debate while academics provided a historical context.

The Westville campus session was chaired by Professor Hassan Kaya, Director of UKZN's Department of Science and Technology - National Research Foundation's Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Panelists included CSRC Student Services Officer, Mr Manyano Mpelane, and academics, Dr Lubna Nadvi and Professor Sabine Marschall.

A political scientist, Nadvi reflected on the question of political expression and the #RhodesMustFall campaign. She said it was important to have monuments which captured the history of the country and the journey made to liberation. 'Shouldn't we also capture the negative components of history, to ensure we should never repeat it?' said Nadvi. 'We must use spaces to remind people of the history of our country,' she said. Nadvi cautioned against removing names of donors on buildings on the Westville campus as they had funded the building of the structures.

Kaya said the question of reconciliation was a complex process and that symbols served as a reflection of identity.

A specialist in cultural and heritage tourism, Marschall's field of research includes monuments and architecture as heritage. She advised against a radical approach, saying relocating statues should not lead to them being 'dumped' in museums. Marschall said one option was to relocate the statues to an appropriate community, a less prestigious, but still public space. She also said the statues could be recontextualised by placing a plaque or board next to them, providing information about the subject. 'This would be constructive and have a huge educational value.'

Said Mpelani: 'The statues must go! Their removal is just a mere piece of the puzzle of what we want to achieve.' He said he believed the statues did not represent 'the new South Africa' and 'our stance is clear, we need to create a history we are proud of'. Staff and students on the Westville campus suggested the entire University vote on the fate of the statues to ensure it was a collective process.

- Raylene Captain-Hassthibeer

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## CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE-BUILDING UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT



University of KwaZulu-Natal and International Laureate Scholar Program Scholars at Colloquium

International students from around the world gathered at UKZN for a discussion on African indigenous approaches to conflict transformation and peace building. The students, part of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Scholar Laureate Programme in the United States, attended the colloquium which examined the Implications of Conflict Transformation on Human Rights in Africa. The colloquium was hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS) on UKZN's Westville campus.

Opening the event, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Professor Jonathan Blackledge, welcomed the international students to the University and commended the DST-NRF CIKS for taking the initiative to host the colloquium. Blackledge underscored the importance of promoting international human understanding through shared experiences and knowledge systems.

Director of the DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Professor Hassan Kaya, outlined the work being done by the Centre to promote the contribution of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the global pool of knowledge. This is in line with the National IKS Policy and the vision and mission of UKZN.

The colloquium included a keynote address by the Dean of the School of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam, Professor Palamagamba John Kabudi. Kabudi shared his knowledge on the topic, with particular emphasis on customary law, border conflicts and alternate dispute resolutions.

UKZN doctoral student in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Mr Valery Ferim, shared his research work with the international visitors on the Role of African Indigenous Approaches to Contemporary Conflict Transformation and Peace-Building with special reference to the Bakweri people of South-West Cameroon. The colloquium was chaired by Professor Muxe Nkondo, a Board member of the DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems

With 42 students from countries such as the United States, Canada, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Japan, Puerto Rico, Botswana, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, Australia, the Philippines and China, faculty advisors from the International Scholar Laureate Programme, Ms Cindy O'Leary and Ms Sarah Dachos, said the programme served as an international relations and diplomacy forum.



Kaya said the most important focus on this international initiative on promoting IKS was community involvement in knowledge production, because that is where indigenous knowledge was being generated and used. 'Our IKS experts are not in the universities - they are in the communities,' said Kaya.

UKZN Dean of Research, Professor Urmilla Bob, told the international visitors about how the University of Durban-Westville and the University of Natal were merged to form the University of KwaZulu-Natal, noting the 'apartheid construct' which reflected the divide and rule ethos at the time. Bob, who said the merged University had shaped its own destiny, reflected on her own experiences, having edited a book titled: *Conflict-Sensitive Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa*. The book is freely available on the ACCORD website:

<http://www.accord.org.za/publications/books/1287-conflict-sensitive-adaptation-to-climate-change-in-africa>

Raylene Captain-Hassthibeer



Prof Jonathan Blackledge & Prof Hassan Kaya



Prof Palamagamba Kabudi



Prof Muxe Nkondo



Prof Urmilla Bob

## DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems at National Launch of National Science Week



IKS at National Science Week

one of the many DST led activities to build a South African society that is knowledgeable about science, critically engaged and scientifically literate. NSW 2015 was themed "Light & Light-based Technologies and was celebrated from 1 to 8 August 2015 throughout the country.

The National Science Week (NSW) is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which is primarily aimed at raising awareness of the importance of science, technology and innovation in day to day life. The NSW is

The start of NSW 2015 was marked by a national launch event led by Minister of Science and Technology, supported by the Premier of the North West province and local government leaders. The centre of attraction at the national launch event was a science, technology and innovation exhibition on 1 August 2015 at North West University, Mafikeng Campus. The CIKS in partnership with University of Zululand Documentation Centre will showcased the interface between knowledge systems through IKS-based light and light-based technologies. The next generation of scientists, researchers and innovators were treated to an inspired concept at the CIKS booth.



IKS Team Exhibiting at NSW

## Ali Mazrui Award for Excellence in Scholarship



Prof Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni

The annual Ali Mazrui Award for Excellence in Scholarship is granted to those individuals whose academic work has been substantial, rigorous and original, with far-reaching consequences for one or more disciplines within African Studies. Recipients should have demonstrated transformative leadership in their institutions with a commitment to mentorship, student success, community engagement and capacity building. The recipient for 2015 is Prof Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, a research associate of the DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Educated in Zimbabwe from his first degree to the DPhil level, and with additional academic experiences in Spain, South Africa and Australia, Ndlovu-Gatsheni has emerged as one of the most prominent intellectual figures among the current generation of African scholars. His career experience is rich and diverse, with positions in Zimbabwe, Monash, Open University (UK) and now at Unisa where he is the current head of the Archie Mafeje Research Institute.

Owing to his administrative capability, Ndlovu-Gatsheni was once appointed as Principal Director in the office of the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 2009. His combined academic and administrative experiences reflect in his maturity, ability to take sound decisions and professional polish. This talent has yielded both grand initiatives and recognitions: He is the founder and coordinator of the Africa Decolonial Research Network (ADERN) based at Unisa; he is a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated social scientist and a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

His academic interests, which also inform his teaching, include Race and Empire, African History, African Politics, International Politics and African Development. His extensive body of work touches upon a cluster of themes such as decolonial theory, postcolonial theory, identities, belonging, and citizenship, Empire, imperialism and colonialism, African political economy, Pan-Africanism, nationalism, decolonisation, and liberation, as well as the history and politics of Zimbabwe and South Africa. He uses his knowledge of six languages, access to rich data and the ability to create appropriate methodologies to greatly shape the field of African studies.

The outcome of an extensive range of interests includes a first-rate research, outstanding publications and high profile lectures. Capable of teaching courses on close to a dozen themes, Ndlovu-Gatsheni represents a huge asset to his university and offers first-class mentorship to his students. With nine books already in print and three forthcoming, he is extremely versatile, producing a record of a book in two years. In between writing these books, he composes essays, a staggering number of close to a hundred in journals and books, not to mention occasional reviews, essays in the media and countless conference presentations. Recognised in the continent as an academic leader, Ndlovu-Gatsheni has won prizes, serves on the board of many journals, evaluates manuscripts, and has also served as an external examiner in many universities, in addition to supervising many MA and PhD students.

It is against the aforementioned background that one can authoritatively affirm that Ndlovu-Gatsheni stands in a class of his own, able to bring together ideas that scholars put in different boxes. His scholarship connects various issues, drawing from the humanities and the social sciences to explain worldview, culture and society, and the state in a developing context. His approach places elements of ethnicity and politics in a new light and provides many avenues for future inquiry. His books and essays reflect a detailed reading of archival documents, oral interviews, and extensive critique of previous scholarship in the politics of understanding the past. He has done a good job analysing the data on the multidimensional nature of contemporary African societies and politics, emphasizing the changing dynamics of theories of writing and knowledge presentation. To understand contemporary Africa and how it is framed in intellectual discourse, one has to turn to his works on coloniality and decoloniality.

## Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award



Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers

Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers, incumbent of the Department of Science and Technology - National Research Foundation South African Research Chair in Development Education at Unisa, received the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award on 3 July 2015. The award is given to an African who has distinguished himself or herself in the public leadership positions: "Your nomination for this award has been informed by your dogged pursuit of the total liberation for the continent through the promotion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems of Education."

The award was handed to her by former president Thabo Mbeki, who is the Patron of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, on behalf of four major institutes of Unisa (the Archie Mafeje Institute, the Institute of Global Dialogue, the Institute for African Renaissance Studies and the Thabo Mbeki Leadership Institute), and the University of Texas, which is in charge of bringing the African Diaspora in as the African Union's sixth province.

Among her vast experience, Hoppers has been involved in international and regional development, South Africa's transformation and the African Renaissance, peace and development, higher education in southern Africa, adult education, further education and training, and gender and social policy.

Her lengthy CV includes the following:

- ♦ Advisory and consultancy experience on international development policy, gender and social policy; adult and basic education; and higher education for SIDA, NORAD, World Bank, EU-ACP, UNESCO, NEDA, UNICEF, OAU, Governments of South Africa and Uganda.
- ♦ Expertise in peace and disarmament, peace research, human rights and conflict resolution for the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs, the International Peace Research Association, International Peace Academy/OAU, Hague Appeal for Peace, SIDA, NORAD).
- ♦ Policy Analysis, Research and Dialogue at the Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies, Harare – Zimbabwe, the Center for Education Policy Development and the Human Sciences Research Council – South Africa.
- ♦ Regional Expert on Indigenous Knowledge Systems; development issues; and community intellectual property rights for the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) (Geneva), the OAU, ECA (Addis Ababa); International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisation (IFRRO).

Hoppers's principal areas of interest include:

- ♦ building capacity for trans-disciplinary basic and applied research in support of Africa's development
- ♦ providing support to policy formulation and implementation for sustainable development and human security in Africa and internationally
- ♦ promoting the social and economic justice agenda including the rights of local communities
- ♦ promoting dialogue across cultures and epistemologies by developing protocols for respectful cultural exchange, strengthening the enfranchisement of Africans, and promoting endogenous research

She has a PhD in Social Sciences from Stockholm University and has held several teaching and lecturing posts.





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# CALL FOR PAPERS



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## Organizers

The Department of Science and Technology-  
National Research Foundation Centre in In-  
digenous Knowledge Systems at the Univer-  
sity of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) in col-  
laboration with the IKS Working Group at  
the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,  
Africa Programme of the UN University for  
Peace (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and the Uni-  
versity of Rwanda (Rwanda).

## Submission Dates

- Submission of abstracts : **Friday, 28 August 2015**
- Notification of selected papers: **Tues-  
day, 15 September 2015**
- Submission of final papers by: **Friday,  
09 October, 2015**

## Conference Sub-themes

Postgraduate students interested in participat-  
ing at the Conference will be required to pre-  
pare abstracts and develop papers for presen-  
tation on any of the following topics:

- Epistemology and Methodologies in the  
context of AIKS
- Human Rights and Ethics
- Environmental Governance and Manage-  
ment
- Agrarian Questions
- Security issues related to land, water and  
energy
- Climate Change adaptation
- Food Security
- African indigenous languages within the  
context of AIKS
- ICT and communication of AIKS
- Information Systems and AIKS

AIKS and Intellectual Property Rights

## Who Should Attend?

The conference focuses on post graduate  
students enrolled in Masters and PhD pro-  
grammes in Universities in Southern and  
Eastern Africa, in any discipline whose inter-  
est is in mainstreaming African Indigenous  
Knowledge Systems into research from an  
inter- and transdisciplinary approach. Proof  
of student registration is mandatory. Female  
postgraduate students and researchers will be  
given preference. However, to enrich the  
students' research experience other stake-  
holders from academia, research institutions,  
private sector, civic organizations, indige-  
nous knowledge holders and practitioners,  
are also encouraged to attend.

## Contact

For submissions and any clarifications please  
refer to the following contact person:

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