

# The College of Humanities School of Education cordially invites you to a webinar

## Critical Reflections on recent social unrest in South Africa

Critical Reflections on recent social unrest in South Africa, while unprecedented in scale and intensity, might be argued as an inevitable outcome of the convergence of a complex set of mitigating factors. Of salience is that such factors were visible in plain sight, exacerbated by the pandemic and ignited by deliberative political orchestration. While the unrest has been largely contained, philosophers and cultural critics like Slavoj Žižek might argue that we have simply deferred the apocalyptic zero-point - that the capitalist wealth accumulation machinery with education as slick lubricant, if not substantively ruptured and reconfigured, will simply inch us closer to this zero-point. In this first webinar, colleagues from the School of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal have assembled to provoke discussion on the issues (threats and opportunities) that present, as we contemplate our work as academics in a province (and country) that promises much but delivers discriminately.

**Date:** Thursday, 9 September 2021

**Time:** 15:00 – 16:30

**Platform:** Zoom

**RSVP:** [CLICK HERE](#)

SPEAKERS	
Professor Ayub Sheik	Encoding and decoding social unrest: a semiotic analysis of the "Zuma protests"
Mr Sabelo Nxumalo	South African riots and 'better life for all': the fallacy of the ruling party's (un)readiness to govern!
Professor Justin Molebale	Social upheaval in South Africa: Can we address the knowledge gap?
Dr Doras Sibanda	How racism affects people of color in Africa
Professor Vaughn John	Making sense of crisis: violence in the time of pandemic
FACILITATOR	
	Professor Suriamurthee Maistry

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Suriamurthee Maistry is an academic in Social Sciences Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He leads three research initiatives. The first of these is "The South African Textbook Research Project" that looks at ideological discourses in school textbooks. The second is the "Higher Education Pedagogy Project" – a series of case studies of curriculum and pedagogy in selected university Economic and Business Sciences programmes. His third research project entitled "Decolonising postgraduate supervision: towards a pedagogy of ethical care" focuses on supervision practices in the College of Humanities at UKZN in the context of decolonization debates. He is also a co-investigator in a project entitled "Pre-service teachers as agents of change: About deliberative encounters and a pedagogy of discomfort in a teacher education programme".



Ayub Sheik is Associate Professor in the Department of English Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has taught at various universities in the United Arab Emirates. He was also an Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of KwaZulu-Natal as well as a visiting DAAD scholar at the University of Essen in Germany. His research preoccupations are academic literacy, teaching Shakespeare, Narratology, as well as the supervision of students in English Education.



Doras Sibanda is a senior lecturer in chemistry education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Education. Her research interests are in teaching sequences in chemistry education, mentoring of science teachers, inquiry based science teaching, pedagogical content knowledge and creativity in Africa, STEM education, teacher development and curriculum decolonization.



Dr Justin Lesedi Molebale is an academic in the School of Education at UKZN. He has an acute sense of and desire for social justice, often challenging authorities which earned him a short stint in detention. Dr Molebale has worked as a Mathematics and English teacher, school head of department (Science, Mathematics and Technology), and Subject Advisor (Mathematical Literacy), before joining the Mathematics and Computer Education Cluster in the UKZN School of Education at Edgewood Campus in 2017. He recently graduated with a PhD in which his research focus was the learning of calculus concepts by grade 12 learners. He is currently involved in a community outreach project called Family Math.



Sabelo Nxumalo is a lecturer in the discipline of Life Orientation and Physical Education in the School of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. His recent scholarship focuses on indigenous knowledge systems and Ubuntu Curerre. He has responded to the crisis presented by the pandemic with an insightful piece titled: "The Conundrum of COVID-19 and the Sports Industry: When Saving Lives is More Important than Entertainment."



Vaughn John is a professor in the School of Education at UKZN with three decades experience in community-based and university-based peace education and scholarship. This engaged scholarship has been disseminated via more than fifty publications. After training as a research psychologist, Vaughn's early career focused on monitoring political violence in KwaZulu-Natal, and supporting communities and organisations affected by this state-sponsored civil war. He subsequently led the development of South Africa's first accredited national qualification in Conflict Transformation and served two terms as co-convenor of the Peace Education Commission of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA). He is a facilitator and board member of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Kwazulu-Natal and co-convenor of the AVP International Research Committee.