

Stellenbosch History Department

Seminars, term 4 2025

Seminars are at 13.00 in Krotoa 3040 and online; click the talk titles for Teams links

Tuesday 14 October

Athambile Masola: UCT / STIAS Iso Lomso Fellow

Emancipation of Women: meet Pumla Ngozwana



In 1935 The Bantu World newspaper published an article titled “Emancipation of Women” in the newspaper’s women’s pages. It was a reproduction of a speech Pumla Ngozwana had delivered at Inanda Seminary, a girls school in then Natal. Ngozwana was no stranger to the newspaper world as she was a writer and teacher.

She was one of the few women who had graduated from the University of Fort Hare and was a teacher at Lovedale College and Adams College. A few years after this speech, Ngozwana met and married Christopher Kisosonkole and moved to Uganda in 1939 where she was a part of the pre-independence women’s movement as a member of the Uganda Council of Women. In Uganda she became part of the early cohort of African women who joined the Legislative Council in 1956 which was the gateway towards working for international organisations such as the United Nations, UNESCO and the International Council of Women in the 1960s and 1970s. As part of an ongoing project (an intellectual biography) this presentation will offer a segment into Pumla Ngozwana’s thinking about the emancipation of women before she moved to Uganda. While discourses about women’s liberation and emancipation dominate the mid to late 20th century, seeing examples from the early 20th century period have begun to challenge the ways in which we can historicise women’s theoretical and activist work about women’s liberation on the African continent.

Tuesday 21 October

Marcia Schenk, University of Potsdam

Remembering African Labour Migration to the Second World: Socialist Mobilities between Angola, Mozambique, and East Germany



This paper engages with the history of young Mozambicans and Angolans who migrated in state-sponsored schemes to East Germany in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s. They went to work and to be trained as a vanguard labor force for the intended African industrial revolutions. While they were there, they contributed their labour power to the East German economy. The research draws on more than 260 life history interviews and uncovers complex and contradictory experiences and transnational encounters. What emerges is a series of dualities that exist side by side in the memories of the former migrants: the state and the individual, work and consumption, integration and exclusion, loss and gain, and the past in the past and the past in the present and future. [Click here to download the open access book upon which the talk is based.](#)