

20March 2013

Disability Colloquium at UCT to focus on range of critical issues

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence, Professor Rashida Manjoo, to deliver keynote address on 25 March at 14h00 in Francis Ames Room, Barnard Fuller Building, Health Sciences Campus, Anzio Road, UCT

The University of Cape Town's Disability Service, as part of the Transformation Services Office, is to hold a colloquium exploring issues ranging from HIV and disability to the ethics of care, as well as a one-day workshop on learning disabilities, from 25 to 27 March, 2013.

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Professor Rashida Manjoo, will deliver the keynote address on violence against women with disabilities, on 25 March. Professor Manjoo, who is a part-time professor at UCT, is the former Parliamentary commissioner of the Commission on Gender Equality and has held numerous visiting professorships.

"Intersectionality" has been chosen as a unifying theme for the colloquium because of the important insights it provides for understanding what happens when different categories of disadvantage impact on one another. Experts in their fields will speak about "Disability, HIV/AIDS risk and vulnerability", HIV and infertility, and sexual identities.

"It is vital that disability discourse and disability scholarship takes its rightful place in human rights discourse and, more importantly, in other social justice disciplines," said the head of UCT's Disability Service, Reinet Popplestone.

A workshop on learning disabilities on 27 March will cover barriers to learning at the tertiary education level. Speech and language therapists, clinical psychologists, a developmental optometrist and a physiotherapist will speak about dyslexia, Asperger Syndrome, visually related learning difficulties, Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

The colloquium will be open to the media and will be held in the Francis Ames Room, Barnard Fuller Building, Health Sciences Campus in Anzio Road in Observatory.

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ENDS

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