



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Weigelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

28 September 2021

UCT to host landmark event acknowledging land cleansing ceremony

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Faculty of Humanities will host a [Heritage Month Colloquium](#) virtually on Wednesday, 29 September 2021 from 17:30 to 18:30. The colloquium, titled *Unburning the Fire & Acknowledgment of Land Cleansing Ceremony*, is a celebration of the research and knowledge production of the new San and Khoi Centre in its first year.

The colloquium is also a congratulatory nod to the centre's research staff, the Faculty of Humanities, UCT colleagues in Linguistics, African Studies and Knowledge and Information Stewardship and the Xarra Restorative Justice Forum, communities and book authors, all of whom have played a critical role in reaching this milestone.

Associate Professor Shose Kessi, Dean of UCT's Faculty of Humanities, commented: "This is a landmark event for UCT. More than a commemoration of our research, it is an acknowledgment of the university's physical and historical location in a society that is yet to fully right itself from the horrors that colonialism inflicted on indigenous peoples. In acknowledging this, the university reaffirms its commitment to decoloniality and a just and inclusive transformation of our society."

Unburning the Fire combines performances by San and Khoi artists with addresses from the academy and UCT's international partners to deliver a nuanced appraisal of the progress made in correcting historical injustices related to the marginalisation of First Nations people and their descendants in southern Africa, particularly how these manifest in the loss of languages and culture.

"With the university itself located on Huri #oaxa – historically named by the Khoi, meaning 'mountain rising out of the sea' – it is proper that we, as an institution, acknowledge the land of the San and Khoi people," added Kessi.

The colloquium reviews the work done by the San and Khoi centre over the past year, which includes the publication of two books.

Indigenous Women Rethinking southern Africa's Pasts, Rethinking Africa Vol 4, edited by Dr June Bam and Bernedette Muthien, brings together a number of lead scholars, feminist activists and community poets in the first volume of its kind.

Ausi Told Me: Why Cape Herstorographies Matter, written by Bam and which will officially be announced at the colloquium, moves the traces of knowledge of San and Khoi descendant women of culture, rituals and landscape to the centre as an interpretation of the past and its link to a wider global understanding of our pasts beyond the frontiers of disciplinary knowledge.

A recording of a San and Khoi cleansing ritual of historically significant sections of Middle and Upper Campus will also be shown at the colloquium.

Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Chris Cooter; Professor Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost Indigenous Programming and Research at the University of Alberta; and Professor Tracy McIntosh, Professor in Indigenous Studies and Co-Head, Wānanga o Waipapa, at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Arts will address the colloquium, showing linkages to similar struggles around the world.

[Download the programme.](#)

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Nombuso Shabalala

Head: Media liaison

Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 4190
Cell: (076) 473 5882
Email: Nombuso.shabalala@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za