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**12 March 2025**

## **UCT lecture to address institutional racism in higher education**

**Wednesday, 19 March 2025 | 18:30 SAST | Neville Alexander Building | [RSVP](#)**



Professor Shose Kessi

Photo: Supplied

Professor Shose Kessi, Dean of the [Faculty of Humanities](#) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), will deliver the first lecture of the year in the UCT Inaugural Lecture series on Wednesday, 19 March 2025. The lecture is titled "S#\*t happens. A Decolonial Feminist Psychological Reflection on Institutional Racism in Higher Education".

Professor Kessi said: "Institutional racism in higher education is something that we do not pay sufficient attention to. Debates on transformation in universities often focus on

demographic change and do not take into account the everyday practices and experiences of staff and students, which often contradict the transformation discourse.”

In her lecture, Professor Kessi will present the findings from a photovoice project with black students at UCT that started on the eve of the #RhodesMustFall movement as an example of decolonial feminist mobilisation against institutional racism. She will also reflect, in conversation with black womxn scholars, on the role of the UCT Black Academic Caucus.

The lecture will highlight the complex ways in which identities are negotiated in oppressive contexts as well as the less visible and ambivalent institutional practices that sustain the status quo. “A case is made for universities to interrogate institutional racism, how it influences teaching and learning, research and management practices, and most importantly how it impacts on people’s wellbeing,” added Professor Kessi.

Professor Kessi’s research centres on social and political psychology and the development of photovoice methodology for community mobilisation. She has published on the psychology of racism in higher education and other decolonial and pan-African psychological approaches. She is co-director of the Hub for Decolonial Feminist Psychologies in Africa at UCT.

The lecture will be attended by, among others, Professor Mosa Moshabela, UCT Vice-Chancellor; Professor Elelwani Ramugondo, UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation, Student Affairs and Social Responsiveness; and Professor Garth Stevens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for People Development and Culture at Wits University.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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