

## The Minor

### Winter School Programme for visitors: 24th October - 27th October

Conference Venue: Homecoming Centre (HCC), 15 Buitenkant Street, Cape Town

Organising Institutions:

- Centre for Humanities Research (CHR), University of the Western Cape (UWC)
- South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Social Change, University of Fort Hare (UFH)
- Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC), University of Minnesota (UMN)

Additional Participating Institutions:

- Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI), University of Toronto (UT)
- Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin
- Käte Hamburger Research Centre Global dis:connect, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich
- Instituto Artístico Mauricio Kagel, Universidad Nacional de San Martín

## Day 1

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October

9:00 – 10:30 Meet at Greatmore Building in Woodstock

Opening remarks by Prof Heidi Grunebaum (CHR Director, UWC)

Walkabout: In conversation with Ilze and Heinrich Wolff (Greatmore architects)

Split into 5 groups led by Heidi, Premesh, Maurits, Ilze and Heinrich

10:30 - 11:00 Travel to Homecoming Centre

### 11:00 – 11:30 Arrival Tea/Coffee

11:30 - 13:30 Panel 1: *Music, Sound, and Minor Methods*

*What does it mean to organise sound, that is, to arrange, to take action, to put to work, to make sense of, but also to deploy sound, to politicise it, to push and pull it towards an end yet unrealised? This panel seeks to think about what sound looks like as a minor art; as a method for that which refuses location. In keeping with the vision of the CHR and its aesthetic inquiries at Greatmore, the panel asks what organised sound is as a practice and a programme.*

**Neo Muyanga** (CHR Artist in residence, UWC), *'Old songs setting new scores - the continuities exposed in our national soundtrack'*.

**Sinazo Mtshemla** (Phd Candidate, UFH), *"Yhu i-ANC iyadlala!": Minor composition/s from the Liberation Archives at Fort Hare.*

**Reza Khota** (CHR/Ghent Phd candidate, UWC) *Revisiting Tonalities and Music Practise as Scholarship*

Moderators: Dr Valmont Layne (CHR, UWC), Dr Aidan Erasmus (History Department, UWC),

**13:30 - 14:30 Lunch Break**

14:30 - 16:00 Panel 2: *Reading, Apartheid, and the Unconscious*

**Dr Ross Truscott** (CHR, UWC) (20 mins) *Minor theory*

**Prof Maurits van Bever Donker** (CHR, UWC) (20 mins) *Reading as a Minor Act*

Respondent: Prof John Mowitt (Leeds University) (15 minutes)

**16:00 - 16:30 Tea/Coffee Break**

**16:30 - 17:30 Social at HCC with light finger foods**

17:30 – 19:00 Public Lecture: *No Partial Public Sympathies: A Categorical Imperative  
Unlike Any Other*

**Prof Siba Grovogui** (Cornell University)

Welcome and Introduction: Dean Monwabisi Ralarala (Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UWC)

Chair: Prof Heidi Grunebaum (CHR, UWC)

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**Day 2**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**8:30-9:00 Arrival Tea/Coffee**

9:00-10:30 Film Screenings

*A Ship from Guantanamo* by Dara Kell and Veena Rao and *The Village Under the Forest* by Mark J. Kaplan and Heidi Grunebaum.

**10:30-11:00 Tea/Coffee Break**

11:00 – 13:00 Panel 3: *Minor cinema and its borders*

*The panel proposes a reflection on the cinema as art form as well as on film as a privileged site of intellectual enquiry and theorisation. We propose a dialogue between distinct cinematic practices in the Humanities: an approach to documentary film as means of thought and assemblages of the real, to editing as techné and theory, and to the cinema as a space for the formation of distinct publics. Together panelists reflect on what conjures up a 'minor cinema' -- with and in tension with its national and political borders.*

**Dr Fernanda Pinto De Almeida** (CHR, UWC),

**Khalid Shamis** (CHR Phd candidate, UWC),

**Dr Rui Assubuji** (CHR Postdoc, UWC)

**Dara Kell** (Filmmaker)

Chair: Francois Verster (Filmmaker, CHR Documentary Film Course Convenor)

**13:00-14:30 Lunch (work lunch for doctoral fellows)**

14:30 - 15:30 Lecture: 'Glassing' the Minor in *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)*

**Prof Kass Banning** (University of Toronto)

Chair: Prof Patricia Hayes (CHR, UWC)

**15:30 – 16:00 Tea/coffee**

16:00 - 17:30 Panel 4: Critical Materialities: Puppetry, Aesthetics and a New Kinetics of Sense and Form

The panel engages the critical materialities and kinaesthetic performativities of puppetry and the kinetic object. Through the proposition of the 'minor as method', we seek out points of complementarity, interstitiality, tension, dialogue, ambivalence and generosity between transhemispheric critical-creative approaches that might enable a generative re-thinking of aesthetic education in a post-apartheid South Africa. As separate and yet not distinct instances of thought, we approach the critical dynamic of the performing and kinetic object as an aesthetic-political potentiality that marks the shape of post-apartheid and postcolonial futures. This is also about thinking with resources that are readily at hand. Aesthetic practice elicits new readings and new concepts, as we are confronted with the task of re-thinking the human and how we might conceive of the kinetic object and puppetry as sites to read and comprehend the dynamics of change in South Africa. What can an aesthetic education offer in establishing new collaborations between publics, communities, artists, students and humanities scholars to understand new forms of subjectivity adequate to a practice of post-apartheid freedom. As we continue to envision and grow approaches to exploring the performative aesthetics of sense and form through the kinetic object at Greatmore, we invite reflections on some critical questions around puppetry and its potential to invite movement, form and meaning to aesthetic freedom, thought and practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Dr Aja Marneweck** (CHR, UWC), *Critical Materialities, Approaches to Puppetry and a New Kinetics of Sense and Form*

**Prof Tito Lorifice**, *The concept of the "minor" in puppetry training*

**Prof Larry Switzky** (University of Toronto), *An Emancipated Minor: Puppetry and Other Technology*

**Luyanda Nogodlwana** (CHR Artist in residence, Ukwanda),

**Sipho Ngxola** (CHR Artist in residence, Ukwanda),

**Siphokazi Mpfu** (CHR Artist in residence, Ukwanda),

**Dr Emma Minkley** (CHR, UWC) *Mining the Puppet; Unfolding the Subject*

**Itumeleng Wa lehlere** (CHR, UWC) *Re-imagining Charlotte Maxeke: Reflections on a puppetry performance research process'*

Chair: Prof Maurits van Bever Donker (CHR, UWC)

19:00 - 21:30 Chimurenga and the CHR in collaboration present Tumi Mogorosi and his ensemble performing his new album, Group Theory: Black Music

<https://chimurengachronic.co.za/liberation-music-at-the-chimurenga-factory-october>

Venue: Chimurenga at 157 Victoria Road, Woodstock

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### Day 3

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October

9:00 - 9:30 Arrival Tea/Coffee

9:30 – 11:00 Lecture: *The Alibi of Minority: Race, Legal Status, and Responsibility*

**Prof Nancy Luxon** (University of Minnesota)

Chair: Prof Suren Pillay (CHR, UWC)

11:00 – 12:30 Panel 4: Thinking with the minor II

**Dr Sam Sadian** (CHR, UWC): *A long view of neoliberalism, technocracy and anti-politics in South Africa*

**Dr Rosetta Sifa Vuninga** (CHR, UWC): *“Everyone is doing it”: The complex relationship between criminal and anti-criminal networks in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo*

Respondents: Prof Suren Pillay (CHR, UWC)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch (Working lunch for doctoral students)

14:00 – 15:30 Lecture: *A minor reference and its residues*

**Dr Thozama April** (University of Fort Hare)

Chair: Prof Heidi Grunebaum (University of the Western Cape)

15:30 - 16:00 Tea/coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Lecture: *Ireland, England, and the paradox of ‘minor literature’*

**Prof Eve Patten** (Trinity College Dublin)

Chair: Prof Pam Dube (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Affairs, University of the Western Cape)

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## Day 4

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October

10:00 - 10:30 Arrival Tea/coffee

10:30- 12:00 Lecture: *Minor Differences*

**Prof John Mowitt** (Leeds University)

Chair: Prof Premesh Lalu (CHR, UWC)

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch (work-lunch for doctoral fellows)

13:30 – 15:30 Panel 5: Thinking with the minor II

**Prof Heidi Grunebaum** (CHR, UWC) *A Minor Detail and afterlives of partition*

**Prof Patricia Hayes** (CHR, UWC) *The colonial as minor*

**Dr Lebogang Mokwena** (CHR, UWC) *Seeing Voice; Hearing Bulls: Ubuhle Beads, Visual-Material Commentary, and the Post-Apartheid Public Sphere.*

Respondents: Dr Aidan Erasmus (CHR, UWC),

Dr Kim Gurney (CHR, UWC)

15:30 Tea/Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Lecture: *Who is my neighbour today*

**Prof Ajay Skaria** (UMN)

Chair: Dr Ross Truscott (CHR, UWC)

Closing remarks: **Prof Heidi Grunebaum** (CHR, UWC)

Winter School dinner at 6:30pm – Addis in Cape