

## Call for Contributions

### [En]countering Transformation

1-2 November 2024, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

The Transformation Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, together with the Institutional Culture Workstream of the Committee for the Institutional Response to the (Khampepe) Commission's Report (CIRCoRe), invite contributions as part of a symposium on transformative [en]counters in our university. The critical scope of this symposium is staked out by the notion of [en]counter: to attend to transformative encounters and energies sparking institutional cultural change, as well as those tactics — deliberate, well-intentioned or unintended — that counter transformation and cultural change. The symposium will provide a forum where members of the Stellenbosch University community can speak critically and constructively to transformation and institutional cultural change. Participants may wish to consider the following themes:

#### 1. Apartheid Remains

Where reside the social, cultural, intellectual, creative, artistic, pedagogic, bureaucratic, architectural and sensory remains of apartheid in our university and its faculties? How might these remains be undone?

#### 2. Practicing Transformation

How is transformation taught and practiced — overtly or stealthily — by students, lecturers, support staff and management? What transformative practices in teaching, learning and assessment exist in the university and its faculties? What transformative vision and overarching aims drive our engagement with different communities? Alongside quantity of publications and citations, bearing in mind the imperative to transform, how might we assess the influence of our research and scholarship?

#### 3. The Discomforts of Transformation

Can we name and engage the discomforts/silences around transformation? How/where do these manifest and how (if at all) may they be put to work productively or negotiated?

#### 4. Institutional Routines

Where and how do students, staff, faculty, or others experience resistance to transformation by the University itself, whether or not consciously or intentionally? Where may power relations or institutional arrangements result in dehumanising, punitive, unaccountable, defensive, exclusionary, assimilationist or other institutionalised patterns of failed or frustrated transformation? Where may we fail to live up to our articulated values and principles as they relate to transformation and institutional cultures?

**5. Administrating Transformation**

How is transformation managed, measured, implemented and reported on? What are key indicators of transformation in the university and its faculties, and do they require revision? What are the characteristics of effective transformation management?

**6. Transformation in Times of Crisis**

What are the pressures bearing on transformation in times of crisis? How does the South African present, understood as a constellation of numerous crises, ultimately reorient, derail or galvanize transformation? And how does questions about economic viability, sustainability and bleak employment prospects impact on transformation?

**7. Decolonial Transformations**

The languages of transformation and decolonisation/decoloniality are often opposed to each other. In light of this, how does decolonisation/decolonial thought interact with the discourse of transformation? Can 'transformers' sit comfortably in the same space with 'decolonisers'/'decolonialists'? What are decolonial approaches to transformation?

**8. Reflecting on / Engaging Elmarie Costandius's Work**

As we mourn the untimely loss of Elmarie Costandius and continue to draw strength from her work, submissions are welcomed that reflect on Elmarie's contribution to transformation at SU, her particular vision for this campus and town, her pedagogical practices/engagements with students or any other themes/areas where she has impacted institutional policy, transformation, thinking and practice.

We seek to draw contributions from diverse stakeholders, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, staff (c1, c2 and c3) and those communities that engage with our university. Contributions are envisioned in a variety of formats, including papers, panels, testimonies, art interventions (theatre, visual and sonic), photography, short reflections, provocations, poetry and prose. The final symposium programme will comprise solicited as well as proposed contributions. Funding is available to assist with symposium costs (registration and meals). Proposals for contributions should be in the form of a concept note of between 300 and 500 words and should be sent to [transformation2024@sun.ac.za](mailto:transformation2024@sun.ac.za), no later than 3 September. Concept notes should contain the proposed duration for your contribution, if other than 20 minutes (which is suggested for individual papers). Successful contributors will be notified by 10 September. The symposium is planned to culminate in an edited book and an online exhibition. Questions can be directed to [transformation2024@sun.ac.za](mailto:transformation2024@sun.ac.za).