

Programme and speaker profiles

Symposium:
Reflections on
the Scientific and
Social Impact of the
COVID-19 Pandemic

22 – 23 October 2020



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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Make today matter

PROGRAMME

Symposium: Reflections on the Scientific and Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS) invites you to a two-day webinar (22 & 23 October 2020) that will explore the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

22 OCTOBER 2020

Session 1: 09:00 – 11:30

Opening and welcome	Professor Tawana Kupe (Vice-Chancellor and Principle of the University of Pretoria)
How has the pandemic brought to the fore and reignited our philosophical interest in human vulnerability and uncertainty? What lessons can be learnt from the history of plagues and epidemics?	Professor Howard Phillips (Historical Studies, University of Cape Town) Professor Peter Vale (CAS, University of Pretoria) Professor Véronique Tadjó (visiting professor, University of the Witwatersrand) Professor Francis Nyamnjoh (Anthropology, University of Cape Town)
Moderator	Professor Tinyiko Maluleke (CAS, University of Pretoria)

Session 2: 14:00 – 16:30

What has been the social impact of the pandemic and what is the prognosis for its long-term effect on civil liberties; food security and its sustainability; education and access to affordable learning; and gender-based violence against women and the vulnerable? How will the pandemic impact the world's weaker economies – the so-called "global south"?	Professor Teboho Moja (Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, New York University, and visiting research fellow at the CAS) Professor Lindiwe Sibanda (Director and Chair, Alliance for Research Universities in Africa Centre of Excellence, University of Pretoria) Professor Frans Swanepoel (CAS, University of Pretoria) Professor John Sharp (CAS, University of Pretoria)
Moderator	Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga (CAS, University of Pretoria)



23 OCTOBER 2020

Session 3: 10:00 – 12:30

Scientific evidence – what it means and how it has been used (or abused) during the pandemic. What is the future of scientific evidence and related issues of modelling in a context where political expediency trumps scientific truth?

Professor Glenda Gray (South African Medical Research Council)

Professor Robin Crewe (CAS, University of Pretoria)

Professor Emil Roduner (Institute of Physical Chemistry, University of Stuttgart, and Department of Chemistry, University of Pretoria)

Moderator

Professor Sue Nicolson (CAS, University of Pretoria)

PROGRAMME CONCLUDES



PROFILES



Professor Howard Phillips is an emeritus professor in the Historical Studies Department at the University of Cape Town. He specialises in two areas: the social history of medicine (especially epidemics and pandemics, medical education and hospitals) and the history of universities.



Professor Peter Vale is a senior research fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria, and the Nelson Mandela Professor of Politics Emeritus at Rhodes University. His research interests include social thought, intellectual traditions in South Africa, the future and politics of higher education, and the origins of international relations in South Africa. Professor Vale has published extensively in all these areas.



Professor Véronique Tadjo is a writer, academic, artist and scholar from the Ivory Coast. She is a visiting professor at the University of the Witwatersrand.



Professor Francis Nyamnjoh is a professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. Prior to joining the university in 2009, he worked at the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa in Dakar, Senegal. Professor Nyamnjoh has taught Sociology, Anthropology and Communication Studies at universities in Cameroon, Botswana and South Africa, and has researched and written extensively on globalisation, mobility, citizenship and belonging.





Professor Tinyiko Maluleke is an internationally recognised researcher in his field, specialising in religion and politics as well as black and African theologies. He is a professor in Theology and a senior research fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria.



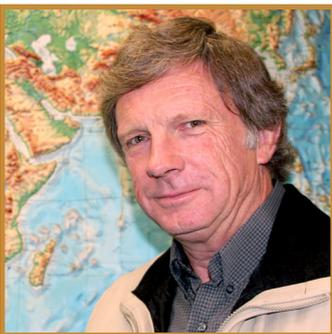
Professor Teboho Moja is a clinical professor of Higher Education at New York University, an extraordinary professor at the University of the Western Cape and a visiting research fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria. She has published extensively on higher education policy and presented several keynote addresses at international conferences on higher education issues.



Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda is a globally recognised African food systems expert and is the director of the African Research Universities Alliance Centre of Excellence in Food Security, hosted at the University of Pretoria in collaboration with the University of Nairobi and the University of Ghana. She serves as co-chair of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, is a member of the SDG Target by 2030 Champions 12.3 coalition on reducing food loss and waste, and is a commissioner for the EAT-Lancet Commission on Sustainable Healthy Food Systems.



Professor Frans Swanepoel is the director of Strategic International Partnerships at the University of Pretoria and is a professor in Agricultural Transformation Africa at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship. He is recognised as an expert in agriculture and food systems transformation and capacity development in Africa. Professor Swanepoel's research interests include smallholder agricultural production systems, agricultural education and training, and agricultural research and innovation leadership in Africa.



Professor John Sharp is emeritus professor of Social Anthropology, the project leader of the Human Economy Programme and a senior research fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria. He taught at the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch before moving to Pretoria in 2001.





Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga is a postdoctoral fellow currently leading the “extractivism” and environment programme within the broader framework of the Environmental Humanities Project at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria. Dr Mushonga is broadly interested in environmental and societal issues, with a particular interest in violent environmentalism.



Professor Glenda Gray is the first female president and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council. She is the chair of the Research Committee on COVID-19, bringing scientific evidence and experience to the Minister of Health and the National Coronavirus Command Council. Professor Gray studied medicine and paediatrics at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she remains a full professor of research at the School of Clinical Medicine.



Professor Robin Crewe is an internationally renowned researcher, educator and innovator for the work he has done on social insects, particularly honeybees. He is a professor of Zoology and Entomology, and a senior research fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria. His research interests are in behavioural ecology, social behaviour, chemical ecology and social organisation in honeybees.



Professor Emil Roduner is an emeritus professor in Physical Chemistry at the University of Stuttgart's Institute of Physical Chemistry, and a part-time visiting professor at the University of Pretoria's Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship. Professor Roduner's present focus is on alternative chemical energy research, particularly on the conversion of CO₂ to liquid fuels using solar energy.



Professor Sue Nicolson is a professor in Zoology and Entomology and a senior research fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria. Her research interest is in the physiological aspects of pollination biology, with a current focus on nutritional regulation in honeybees, especially the interactions between nutrients, toxins and other stressors.

