

## Short Bio: Dr Lerato Mokoena



Dr Lerato Mokoena is a Lecturer at the University of Pretoria in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, Departments of Religious Studies, Old Testament, and Hebrew Scriptures.

Lerato's future for Theology is that of a corpus built and curated in such a way that it becomes an immediate consolation to us, that we can privilege ourselves in order to build our own societies. A space where the church is an active member and participant in this intellectual stampede. The university in a quest to redefine itself and its role in society is beneficial ground for scholars like Dr Mokoena who want to make the university a place of creating citizens that can advance their society and not just intellectuals and ministers. Theological education should not be removed from any struggle and mission to redefine our lives as we navigate oppressive structures and try to break strongholds of power designed to ensure that we are not co-creators of the body of knowledge that seeks to talk about us but not to treat us as interlocutors. Theology should be allowed to take its rightful place in society, and that is being the shop steward of God.

Dr. Mokoena has subsequently been inducted into the Mail and Guardian list of Top 200 Young South Africans in the Education Category and also the Avance Media Top 100 Most Influential Young South Africans for 2020. She is now a Jakes Gerwell Fellow mentoring matriculants who aspire to be Educators and a Inspiring Fifty women South Africa Nominee for 2021.