



HSRC | Mandela Initiative | UFH Centenary
Migrant Labour
 in South Africa



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

ACTION DIALOGUE AND WORKSHOP
 Historical Legacies and Contemporary Realities

VENUE: University Of Fort Hare, Hunterstoun Centre, Hogsback, Eastern Cape

DATE: 26 - 28 October 2016

Workshop Focus

The Marikana Massacre of August 2012 sent shock waves through South Africa and the world. It depicted scenes of police violence and warlike confrontation which many said had not been seen in the country since the time of Sharpsville in 1960. The Marikana tragedy has raised many pressing issues for South Africa and has redefined the political and economic landscape in critical ways. One topic that clearly emerged from the investigation of the living and working conditions at Marikana was the continued importance of migrant labour and migrancy to the lives of many black South Africans on the mines. In the Marikana case, it was discovered that part of the financial and social burden on workers, fighting for fair wages, came from their strong sense of commitment to their rural homes, especially in Lesotho and the Eastern Cape.

The aim of this workshop is to explore the legacies of the migrant labour system in South Africa in the aftermath of Marikana. How important and prevalent is migrant labour in South Africa today? What has happened to the institutions, infrastructure and systems, such as the hostels, which were created in the past to support circular migration both within and beyond South Africa? How is double rootedness maintained and perpetuated in South African today, both in terms of the flow of resources between urban and rural destinations and their impact on poverty and inequality? How does the persistence of migrancy affect urban and rural home-making? How has the presence or absence of active migration impacted on rural communities in terms of education, health care, family life, gender relations and livelihood making? Can we really say that the legacies of the migrant labour system have been eradicated since the end of apartheid? And, if this is not the case, what can now be done to ensure that lives of migrants are better recognised and accommodated in term of government policies and interventions on both sides of the urban-rural divide, and across national borders and boundaries. And how the wounds of the past, inflicted by this system, can be healed and addressed?

The workshop will involve an action dialogue between academic researchers, government officials and development practitioners on the legacies and contemporary features of labour migration and how this might be better dealt with at a practical and policy level in South Africa. The workshop will focus specifically, but not exclusively, on the Eastern Cape and Lesotho, which remain major sending areas for migrants to the mines in South Africa.

The workshop will explore some of the following themes:

- The prevalence of internal and cross-border migrant labour in South Africa today
- The current impact of migrant labour on urban settlement and livelihoods
- The current use and state of old hostel accommodation on mines and in cities
- The role and impact of active migrants in industrial labour relations and politics
- The effect of migrancy on social cohesion, violence and social transformation
- The legacies and impact of migrancy on family life and gender relations
- The legacies and impact of migrancy on poverty and inequality
- The legacies and impact of migrancy on the health care and education crisis
- Horizons for the next generation? Youth imaginations and experiences of migrancy

COORDINATORS:

Professor Leslie Bank, HSRC/University of Fort Hare and
 Professor Francis Wilson, Mandela Initiative/University of Fort Hare





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Dialogue and action to overcome poverty and inequality

Migrant Labour in South Africa: Conference and Public Action Dialogue University of Fort Hare: East London Campus 7th-8th February 2017

Tuesday 7th February, Miriam Makeba Centre, East London Campus

9.00-9.30: Welcome

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Fort Hare.
Professor Francis Wilson, Emeritus Professor, University of Cape Town and Fort Hare.

9.30-11.00: Histories of Migration: Past and Present – Chair Professor Philani Moyo (FHISER)

Paul Weinberg – A Visual History of Migrant Labour in South Africa
Professor Francis Wilson – *Labour in the South African Gold Mines (1972): Past and Present*
Professor Dori Posel (Economics, Wits University) Trends in Labour Migration and Remittances in Post-apartheid South Africa

11.00-11.15: Tea

11.15- 12.45: Trends in Migration and Migrancy in South Africa -- Dr Teresa Connor (FHISER)

Dr Monde Makiwane (HSRC), Urban and Rural Migration Dynamics, with special reference to the Eastern Cape.
Dr Katharine Hall (Economics, UCT) Maternal and Child Migration in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Evidence from the NIDS study.
Dr Emma Monama (African Centre for Migration and Society, Wits) Translocality and Urban-Rural Binaries of Post-apartheid Geography

12.45pm – 1.30pm: Lunch at Miriam Makeba Centre



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1.30 am -3.00pm: Marikana, Migrants and the Rural-Urban Interface – Dr Octavia Sibanda (FHISER)

Dr Luke Sinwell with Simphiwe Mbatha (Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg)
The Marikana Spirit: The Rise of Insurgent Trade Unionism in South Africa (Wits University Press, 2016)
Gavin Hartford (independent consultant), Marikana and Mpondoland: The Connections between the Urban and the Rural.
Catherine Cross (Independent Consultant) 'Human settlement and migration strategies at Marikana: what kind of housing to deliver?
Professor Leslie Bank (Human Sciences Research Council and Fort Hare) Madmen on the Mountain: Rituals of War and the “Migrant Politics” of Rural in the Urban?

3.00 – 3.15 Tea

3.15pm – 6.00pm: Action and Policy Session with Migrants, Duncan Village, East London

3.15pm-3.30pm – Chair Professor Leslie Bank (HSRC)

Malcolm Dyani (PAC and Robben Island veteran, East London) “Street Smarts and Country Bumpkins”: Historical Reflections on Migrants and the Politics of the City

Depart from Duncan Village – Taxis collect delegates at Miriam Makeba

3.30pm -4.30pm: *Talking Tour of the Duncan Village B & D hostel complex.*

Host: Koko Qebeyi, Duncan Village Community Leader, members of NGOs and Government.

4.30pm-6.00pm: Engagement with Migrants workers/NGOs – Duncan Village, Arts Centre.
Chair, Koko Qebeyi (Duncan Village) - Community Organiser and Host

7.30pm-9.30pm: Delegates Dinner at GRAZIA Restaurant, Beachfront, East London

Wednesday 8th, Govan Mbeki Board Room, East London Campus

9.00am – 10.30am: Migrants across Borders --- Professor Francis Wilson (Mandela Initiative)

Dr. Maxim Bolt (WISER/University of Birmingham)

Zimbabwe’s Migrants and South African Border Farms: The Roots of Impermanence (Cambridge University Press, 2016) Winner of the British Sociological Association/BBC Thinking Allowed Ethnography Award, 2016

Dr. Khangelani Moyo (African Centre for Migration and Society, Wits): Engaging the changing faces of Zimbabwean migration in Southern Africa: key question for policy makers and theorists.

Dr. Tendai Chigware (Fort Hare Institute of Social and Economic Research). An Alternative Historical Interpretation of International Labour Recruitment in the South African Mines



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11.00am – 12.30 pm: Migrant Families, Gender and Generational Dynamics -- Professor Monde Makiwane (HSRC)

Dr Nomkhosi Xulu (KZN), Spaces of Perpetual Perplexity: Migrant Hostels in Kwa-Zulu Natal
Dr Asanda Benya (Sociology, UCT) Migancy and Mining Femininities in South Africa
Professor Leslie Bank (HSRC) Building the Homestead: Kinship and Conflict across the urban-rural divide.

12.30pm-1.00pm: Lunch at Govan Mbeki Centre

1.00pm - 2.30pm: Migrancy, Poverty and Rural Development in the Eastern Cape – Mike Kenyon (FHISER/Independent Consultant)

Professor Michael Aliber (Agricultural and Rural Development Research Institute, UFH), Rural Livelihoods and Post-1994 Social Change in the Former Transkei
Professor Mike Rogan (ISER, Rhodes University): Food Poverty, Hunger and Household Production in Rural Eastern Cape households.
Siyabu Manona (Independent Consultant) Mobility and Spatial Planning on the Transkei Wild Coast

3.00pm – 3.45 pm: The Migrant Research and Action Agenda: The Way Forward – Chair Professor Philani Moyo

Speakers: Dori Posel (Wits), Leslie Bank (HSRC) and Francis Wilson (UCT)

End of Programme

Thank you