

Ubuntu dialogues

A partnership project between Michigan State University and Stellenbosch University Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

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Ubuntu and Women's Experiences as Epistemology



Unifier Dyer

PhD Candidate

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Bio

Unifier Dyer is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of African Cultural Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research interest is in Indigenous Knowledge Systems in contemporary literature and creative works on and by women.

She completed her MA in African Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa focused on Apartheid literature and silence as a weapon of self-affirmation. Her MA thesis project was titled "The Paradoxes of Silenced Trauma in Mongane Wally Serote's To Every Birth Its Blood."

Before joining the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Unifier was Research Associate at the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship at University of Pretoria, South Africa, where she worked on the concept of Ubuntu and published on this moral philosophy.

Unifier is co-editor with James Ogude of the critical anthology *Ubuntu* and the *Everyday* (2019). She has taught *The African Storyteller* as Principal Instructor, *Introduction to African Literature*, and *Popular Media in Africa*.

Ubuntu as Expressed in the Nature of Fynbos?

Bio

Rhoda Malgas is a Lecturer and PhD candidate in the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology at Stellenbosch University (SU). Her teaching and research centre on social-ecological systems - a conceptual coupling of the nature-human nexus that allows description, analysis and design of natural resource use for conservation-oriented outcomes.

A multi-disciplinary academic journey within the natural sciences, and an inclination for social science methods, has led to diverse contributions and supervised transdisciplinary research that includes themes in Agriculture and Conservation Ecology.

She particularly enjoys tackling conservation issues in partnership with rural small-scale farmers and urban micro-scale land-users,

engaging on topics like food security, nature conservation, Fynbos local ecological knowledge (LEK) and resource use governance. Rhoda serves on several Boards and Trusts dedicated to conservation action and development.

She is also founding director of The Small Things Fund, an organisation that offers first line support to first generation students at South African universities.

Rhoda currently holds a fellowship with Transforming Change (in partnership between Stockholm Resilience Centre and Swedish Institute) and the FemDAC Collective (a collaboration between three SA universities and the University of Illinois to promote the careers and wellbeing of female faculty who are underrepresented in academia).



Rhoda Malgas

PhD Candidate and Lecturer

Stellenbosch University

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For More Contact:

Upenyu Majee (MSU)
majeeupe@msu.edu

Mosa Phadi (Stellenbosch)
mmpphadi@sun.ac.za



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