

Ubuntu dialogues

RETHINKING DIALOGUE : RETHINKING MUSEUM

UBUNTU'S HUMANITY: Inhabiting the language of relationships of care

30 March 2021

Prof Jeanine Ntahirageza

Chris Mokolatsie

Discussant - Dr Richard Benda

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Jeanine Ntahirageza received her PhD from the University of Chicago and, while on Fulbright, an MA from Southern Illinois university in Linguistics. Her research interests are in Linguistics, language teaching, refugee studies, genocide and human rights in Africa. Dr. Ntahirageza co-edited an anthology, *Critical Perspectives on African Genocide: Memory, Silence, and Anti-Black Political Violence* (2021). Her publication record includes refereed book chapters and journal articles. She is Professor and coordinator of TESOL at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago; and the founding Director of the Center for Genocide and Human Rights Research in Africa and the Diaspora. From 2012 to 2019, she served as Department Chair. In 2018 and 2019, she was Principal Investigator on two grants NSA/Startalk and National Endowment for Humanities.

Chris Mokolatsie has just completed a PhD in the Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology at the University of South Africa (Unisa). He completed his Master's degree in Theology at the University of Natal, South Africa. His research interest is Theological Ethics, African Ethics and Indigenous African Religions. Originally from Lesotho, Chris currently lives in the United Kingdom and works in local government. He has also worked in different sectors in the United Kingdom and South Africa including non-profits, higher education and print media journalism where he was a reporter and editor.



Ubuntu, an Indigenous Leadership Approach for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution: The Caring and Human Dynamics

For improved human relationships, justice, and respect for human rights, it is critical to retool leadership approaches to magnify the caring and human definitional elements. Most leadership models and styles presented in academic or other professional settings seem to perpetuate the same relational issues, perhaps taking a slightly different form for years and centuries.

Ntahirageza's paper proposes to investigate an all-inclusive, humanistic, and bottom-up leadership approach, founded on ubuntu principles, that's essential to effective peacebuilding, successful conflict resolution, and prevention of senseless killings in Africa, in the United States, and all over the world.

Botho: The Essence of Character Formation in Sesotho Culture and a Critique of Afrocommunitarianism

Mokolatsie questions current *botho* discourse and the unchallenged privileged status of Afro-communitarian reading of *botho* as a concept and practice. This reading has hampered the discourse from unearthing other enriching ideas about *botho* such as that found in the moral tradition and language of Sesotho speaking culture. The paper broadens the scope of current discourse by introducing a less acknowledged yet attractive meaning of *botho* from the experience of Basotho people, in which (a) it denotes inculcation and habituation of *makhabane* (virtues) or admirable moral qualities of character because (b) *botho* cannot exist independently of the character of *motho* (person) who makes it a reality.



Dr. Richard Benda is a political philosopher interested in the complex interactions between religious and political agency. His passion lies in understanding what holds societies and body politics together. He studied Law at the Independent University of Kigali, where he also taught Criminal and Constitutional Law. The limitations of 'the legal' as an interpretive framework of post-genocide Rwanda led Dr. Benda to undertake doctoral studies in Religious Philosophy and Political Life at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom (2008-2012). His research looked at the actions of committed and practicing religious faith in situations of extreme political violence. Dr. Benda teaches Contextual and Practical Theology at LKH Theological College and Durham University. His postdoctoral research explores different tropes of the aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, in particular (a) intergenerational narratives/dialogues on guilt, shame, transformation and accountability, (b) transitional temporalities, and (c) resistance and rescue as positive deviance.

Tuesday, 30 March 2021

9:00 - 11:00 am EST (3:00 - 5:00 pm South African time)

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Ubuntu Dialogues is an exchange project between Michigan State University, in the United States and the Stellenbosch University in South Africa.



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