



HOMI BHABHA

The contemporary echoes of Fanon

AVReQ had the privilege of hosting Professor Homi Bhabha for a series of engagements centred on the work and legacy of Frantz Fanon. Prof Bhabha's visit was significant, enriching academic discourse and fostering intellectual curiosity. He engaged meaningfully with postgraduate students, early career researchers, and scholars at Stellenbosch University. One of the key engagements was the lecture entitled **"Demystifying Fanon: The Fact of Blackness in the Contemporary."** This session explored Fanon's work "Black Skin, White Masks" and its relevance in the 21st-century African context, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and critical engagement. Another highlight was the workshop titled **"Fanon In the Moment,"** where participants delved into a detailed analysis of Fanon's texts, discussing implications for race, gender, and identity. This session fostered interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration among scholars.

The final day of the masterclass series featured a public session on **"The Surrealism of Fanon: Montage and Social Dialogue."** In collaboration with William Kentridge, this session examined the intersections between Fanon's work and surrealist expression, highlighting the role of arts in social dialogue. Professor Bhabha's visit extended beyond the seminar venues, serving as a catalyst for further explorations and transdisciplinary engagements with Fanon's theories.

His insights and discussions inspired attendees to continue exploring Fanon's influential ideas, thereby enriching the intellectual landscape of Stellenbosch University and beyond. [Read more...](#)

Watch the conversation with William Kentridge [here..](#)



The 2024 Templeton Prize has been awarded to Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, the SARChI Chair for Violent Histories and Historical Trauma, and the Founding Director of the Centre for the Study of the Afterlife of Violence and the Reparative Quest (AVReQ), for her exemplary contributions to scholarship and advancing knowledge in the field of forgiveness and processes of repair in the aftermath of trauma violence.



The Templeton Prize is awarded annually and honours individuals whose work draws from the scholarly disciplines to explore the deepest questions about humanity and the universe. In the press release, the Templeton Prize said, about Gobodo-Madikizela, "Her career as a scholar and a public figure is distinguished by her effort to repair ruptures created by past violence and to build a path toward healing and restoration in an ongoing process she calls 'the reparative quest'." [Read more here...](#)

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



We are proud to shine a spotlight on the exceptional work of one of our fellows, Grace Kagoyire Gasinzigwa. Grace's insightful contributions to understanding the psychological impacts of the Rwandan Genocide on young Rwandans and now her dedication to policy-related initiatives are both commendable and impactful. Grace has recently authored two significant articles that delve into the intricate and enduring effects of the genocide on the younger generation. [Read her articles here.](#)



A special acknowledgment to our amazing post-doc fellows, Dr. Sophia O. Sanan (néé Rosochacki) and Dr. Anell Stacey Daries from AVReQ (Stellenbosch University), who will be key contributors to the 2025 African Critical Inquiry Workshop: "We Need New Names: On Cultures of Care and Difficult Knowledge in African University Museums." This groundbreaking workshop will bring together scholars and students to explore and engage with historical trauma and envision a new future through museum collections and archives.



Queen's University Belfast's Emeritus Professor and an AVReQ/SU Extraordinary Professor, John Brewer, has earned resounding applause, not just from colleagues, but from the entire British sociology community. The British Sociological Association's (BSA) prestigious 2023 Distinguished Service Award now proudly sits alongside his many other accolades, recognising a lifetime dedicated to advancing the field. This esteemed accolade, judged on outstanding contributions to British sociology, is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated unparalleled commitment and have significantly shaped the discipline through a life dedicated to sociological pursuits. An acclaimed author, Prof. Brewer has penned 16 influential books, including notable works such as "C Wright Mills and the Ending of Violence," "Peace Processes: A Sociological Approach," and "The Public Value of Social Sciences."

AVReQ celebrates the remarkable achievements of Dr Lireko P. Qhobela and Prajna Ukabhai, two scholars who have made significant contributions to their respective fields. Dr Qhobela earned her Ph.D. with a groundbreaking dissertation on Applied Drama and Theatre,

exploring practitioners' experiences in Gauteng and the Western Cape. Her research highlights the emotional labour and embodied dilemmatic spaces faced by these practitioners, shifting the focus to their interpretations and challenges in their work.

Prajna Ukabhai was awarded her MA in Psychology with Cum Laude for her thesis on dehumanisation among marginalised groups in South Africa. Her study reveals how historical power imbalances continue to shape present-day social interactions and underscores the need to address structural inequalities.

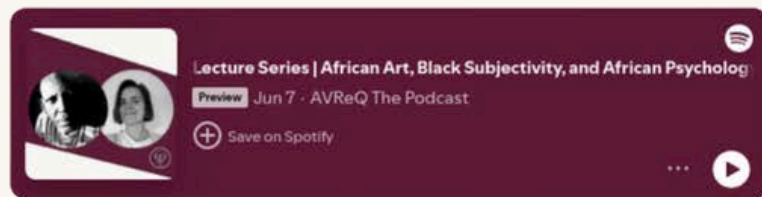
Both scholars' work paves the way for deeper understanding and meaningful interventions in their fields.



EVENTS

'African Art, Black Subjectivity, and African Psychology' - Refusing Racialised Structures of Aesthetic or Identity Theories

Prof. Kopano Ratele and Dr. Sophia O Sanan explored the complexities of art and culture in a thought-provoking session. They discussed some of the imperatives and challenges in the name 'African art' and the epistemic and ontological issues it raises by asking what it means to speak, think, theorise, and make in the name of African aesthetics or art (especially from the location of South Africa with its settler colonial legacy). This conversation proposed that African psychologists and psychology students can best learn from the freedom that the African artist has sought to inhabit, even though we must never be trapped in static meaning of Africa and its arts. [Read more...](#)



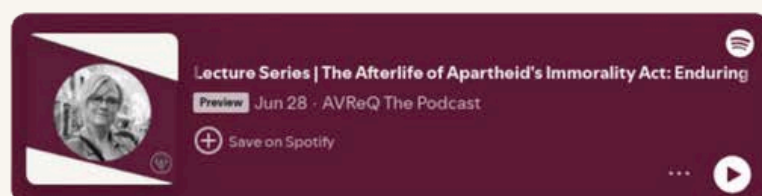
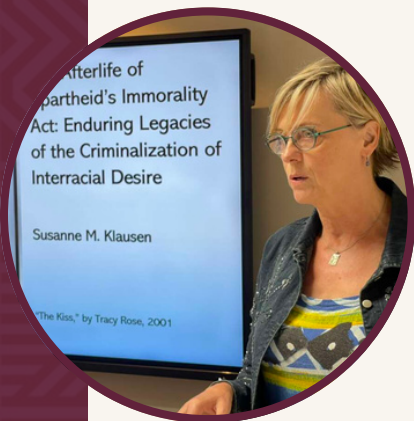
Wilgenhof: Exploring the Transgenerational Legacies and the Reparative Quest - A Transgenerational Dialogue

We hosted a public dialogue to address the aftermath of the Wilgenhof incident, fostering critical reflection on its transgenerational legacies and reparative efforts. The discussion, featuring Drs Wilhelm Verwoerd and Louis van der Riet, both former Wilgenhof residents, highlighted the need for a nuanced approach beyond mere legal responses. They stressed collective responsibility and historical context, urging current and former residents to acknowledge the harm caused by past actions. The speakers emphasised introspection, particularly with regard to initiation traditions linked to humiliation and exclusion. They called for implementing the university's 2018 restitution statement to promote genuine inclusivity and reconciliation, urging a relational journey that involves both young and older generations in transformative dialogue. [Read their open letters here...](#)



The Afterlife of Apartheid's Immorality Act – Enduring Legacies of the Criminalization of Interracial Desire

Prof. Susanne Klausen examined the enduring legacies of apartheid's Immorality Act, highlighting its persistent impact on contemporary South African society. Klausen emphasised the Act's role in policing inter-racial relationships and its lingering socio-cultural effects, despite its repeal in 1985. She discussed how the Act expanded police powers and access to Black women's bodies, a legacy that continues to influence present-day sexual violence by police officers. In conversation with Dr Anell Daries, they connected these historical legacies to current issues of race and gender, noting ongoing challenges within institutions like Stellenbosch University. The event underscored the need for a radical politics of social justice to address and rectify the lingering effects of apartheid, advocating for continued scholarly and societal efforts towards genuine transformation and justice in South Africa. [Read more...](#)



Irreconcilable Differences: Traumatic Constructions of a Post-Holocaust Genocide



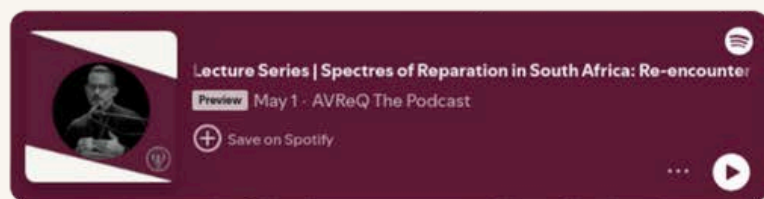
In collaboration with La Trobe University, AVReQ held a lecture and discussion with Prof. Anthony Collins to examine the recent Israel-Palestine violence from a critical, trauma-informed, decolonial, and social justice perspective. The lecture, that forms part of our postgraduate *Thinking Through Violence Seminar Series*, highlighted the starkly contradictory narratives surrounding the conflict, contrasting the portrayal of Israel's military as "the most moral army in the world", defending against antisemitic terrorism with the live-streamed images of Palestinian civilian casualties. The discussion delved into the breakdown of consensual reality and the challenges of navigating post-traumatic paranoia, political misinformation, and other complicating factors. Prof. Collins explored moral dichotomies, proposing instead to understand violence as socially constructed, influenced by power dynamics, and narrated through available discourses. They emphasised a trauma-informed lens to explore the self-sustaining social processes of victimisation, vulnerability, and violence. The session concluded with a call for developing shared accounts of the conflict to move towards resolution and justice.

You can watch a recorded version of the lecture [here...](#)

Spectres of Reparation in South Africa: Re-encountering the TRC



Prof. Jaco Barnard-Naudé explored South Africa's struggle with reparation, emphasising the impact of the lack of reparation on society. Highlighting a quote by Joe Slovo, he stressed that, without reparation, the apartheid ghost will continue to haunt. He discussed the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), critiquing its limited powers and the lack of enforced reparations. Prof. Joel Modiri's response delved into themes of memory, reparation, and decolonisation, questioning whether current frameworks can achieve true transformation. He proposed "reparative insurgency" as an alternative, urging a confrontation of historical injustices. This dialogue highlighted the complexities of transitional justice and the need for innovative approaches to achieve genuine reconciliation and equity in South Africa. ***[Read more...](#)***



Marketplace Violence: Before and within AI



Dr Penelope Muzanenhamo of University College Dublin Business School delivered a profound lecture on *"Marketplace Violence: Before and within AI,"* exploring systemic inequalities and marginalisation affecting Black and Brown communities. Emphasising the importance of Black scholarship, she argued for scholars to act as agents of change, confronting racism and injustice from within their communities. Dr Muzanenhamo's lecture highlighted marketplace violence as actions and narratives by powerful market actors that reinforce inequalities. She discussed epistemic injustice, where Black scholars' contributions are often marginalised, extending to AI algorithms that perpetuate racial biases. Her insights into identity, power dynamics, and coping mechanisms urged scholars to dismantle systems of marketplace violence, advocating for intellectual activism and positive change. ***[Read more...](#)***

LATEST RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Bester, K. J., & **Arendse, D.E.** (2024). Measuring Cybersecurity Awareness in a South African Military Sample. *Scientia Militaria - South African Journal of Military Studies*, 52(1), 5-33. <https://doi.org/10.5787/52-1-1445>

Bester, K.J. & **Arendse, D.E.** (2024). A Trojan horse: Critically exploring data as a colonial instrument during the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. In I. Moyo & S. J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni (Eds.), *The COVID-19 pandemic and the politics of life* (pp. 90-108). Routledge India. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003415121>

Kagoyire, M.G. (2024). *Policy implications and recommendations for young Rwandans impacted by the 1994 genocide* (Policy brief no. 25). The southern voices network for peacebuilding. <https://www.scribd.com/document/741631010/The-Legacy-Of-An-Unlived-Traumatic-Past-The-Impact-Of-The-1994-Genocide-Memories-On-Young-Rwandans-And-National-Peacebuilding>

Kagoyire, M.G. (2024). *The legacy of an "Unlived Traumatic Past": The impact of the 1994 genocide memories on young Rwandans And national peacebuilding* (Report no. 25). The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding. <https://www.scribd.com/document/741630069/Policy-Implications-and-Recommendations-for-Young-Rwandans-Impacted-by-the-1994-Genocide>

Verwoerd, W., Little, A., & Hamber, B. (2024). Beyond intragroup betrayal during intergroup relational peacebuilding. *Peacebuilding*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21647259.2024.2351716>

watch this space...




Keep an eye out for the release of our new season of **AVReQ the Podcast** called **The Profile Series**, where we engage with young, emerging scholars at the centre from our masters, PhD, and post-doctorate cohort. In this exciting new series, our emerging scholars share their reflections on meaning-making at Stellenbosch University, and how they have situated themselves and their research within the context of the space

UPCOMING EVENTS

09 October 2024: Reflecting on 30 Years of Democracy; Imam Abdullah Haron (Haroon Gunn-Salie, Diane Sandler)

22 October 2024: Reparative Justice and Social Justice Scholarship (Prof. Saleem Badat)

6 November 2024: Truth be Told; Pursuing the Truth in Stories from the TRC (Enver Samuels - director)

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