

EYE ON AFRICA

MSU AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
SPEAKER SERIES
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Speaker: **Mosa Phadi**

Topic: **The Multiple Consciousness of Blackness: Race and Class in South Africa**

Date: **Thursday, November 14, 2019**

Time: **12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

Place: **Room 201 International Center**

All are welcome!
Lunch will be provided.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mosa Phadi completed her PhD at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. She has worked as a researcher for many years, published several peer-reviewed works, and produced a research documentary film focusing on the middle class in Soweto. She is currently Programme Manager of the Ubuntu Dialogues at Stellenbosch University, and a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Chair of Historical Trauma and Transformation. Her research interest includes class, race and Marxism.

ABOUT THE TALK

The present talk seeks to expand insights on the debate opened up by Roediger (2017), that “Class first” debates often conceal the racially based inequalities that still exists. Using empirical evidence, we affirm that it is unsatisfactory to “see it as class issue rather than a race issue”. Therefore, Black ontology becomes a reliable signifier in understanding race and how class mutates over various periods of time. The analysis seeks to elaborate on and extend Du Bois’ theory of *double consciousness*. By arguing that being Black in post-apartheid South Africa produces *multiple consciousness*, complicating the orthodox tendencies of thinking about race and class. Multiple consciousness describes existing in the thrall of multiple folds which interact to disrupt the collective history of oppression. Various dimensions shape Blackness. In this talk, language, culture and ethnicity emerge as particularly strong shaping forces.



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