

Embrace

ONE DAY SYMPOSIUM 2 JUNE 2022

TRANSFORMING OUR SCHOOLS THROUGH ADVOCACY FOR GENDER JUSTICE

MEET OUR PLENARY SPEAKERS



CASTER SEMENYA

Mokgadi Caster Semenya OIB, is a South African middle-distance runner and winner of two Olympic gold medals and three World Championships in the women's 800 metres. She first won gold at the World Championships in 2009, and went on to win at the 2016 Olympics, and 2017 World Championships, where she also won a bronze medal in the 1500 metres. On the 30th of November 2003 Caster received the Order of Ikhamanga, a South African honour, granted by the President for her outstanding achievement in Sport. Caster is the darling of our nation but she has also been subject to gender injustice on the global stage.



Advocacy for Gender Justice: Implications for the curriculum

PROF. JULIET PERUMAL

Juliet Perumal graduated with a PhD in Education from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She holds a Bachelor of Paedagogics (Arts) from the University of Durban-Westville, Honours in Education from the University of South Africa, and a Master's in Education (specialising in Language and Literature) from the University of Cape Town. She is currently Professor in the Department of Education Leadership & Management and former Vice Dean: Research and Internationalization in the Faculty of Education at the University of Johannesburg. She is Visiting Professor at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Perumal has taught at school, adult education and various universities throughout South Africa. She has published in the field of language and gender; critical, radical and feminist pedagogies; transformative curriculum, democracy, values and human rights; educational leadership; and qualitative research methodologies. Her work is framed by a strong social justice agenda.

She is a South African National Research Foundation Rated Researcher. She has been the recipient of various national and international scholarships and research awards (namely, Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Michigan; SETI Fellowship to the University of Indiana; PhD Visiting Scholar to the University of Stanford; visiting researcher to University of Central Florida;

Harvard Graduate School of Education; Erasmus Mundus Fellow at Vrije University; Recipient of the Canon Collins Educational Trust in Southern Africa Scholarship, several National Research Foundation grants and fellowships; postgraduate merit awards, etc. She is the recipient of the 2015: Joyce Cain Award Winner (Comparative and International Education) for outstanding research on peoples of African descent. She has presented her work at numerous national and international conferences.

Her current research interests include: critical feminism, critical conceptions of educational leadership, curriculum leadership, women in education leadership and qualitative research methodologies. She is principal investigator of the Women Leading Education in Africa; and co-leader of the Music as Protest and Emancipation research projects.

She is committed to developing the intellectual for meaningful participation in society and as such is happiest when she and her students employ their knowledge, skills, passion and compassion to impact positively on communities. As such she works closely with community outreach projects – such as the Three2Six Bridging Programme for refugee teachers and learners.

Together we can



ADV ANDREA JOHNSON

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Advocate Andrea Johnson as the new head of the NPA's Investigating Directorate. Johnson is widely respected as a straight-talking and principled prosecutor.

Advocate Johnson is a senior and experienced prosecutor with more than 26 years of relevant prosecutorial and management experience at the highest levels within the NPA. She is currently the Acting Special Director of the Priority Crimes Litigation Unit (PCLU) which is the NPA's lead entity dealing with some of the most serious and complex crimes in the country related to matters of national security including terrorism. She is also the coordinator of the Organised Crime Component in the NPA.

Advocate Johnson obtained her B-luris degree in 1993, LLB degree in 1995, and also completed a Diploma in Criminal Justice and Forensic Auditing in 2007. She is highly respected by her peers and external stakeholders, including the South African Police Service and the Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigation (Hawks). She has significant experience working in multi-stakeholder contexts, including high-profile cases requiring prosecution-guided investigations.

Advocate Johnson was one of the five persons recommended to the President to be appointed as National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) in late 2018. This followed an in-depth and public interview process of 15 candidates for the NDPP post. She is well-known to South Africans and brings a relevant profile and legitimacy to the ID and NPA at an important time.

Advocate Johnson has also worked as a senior member of the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO also known as Scorpions), after being appointed to the unit in 1999. She was one of the first appointees in the Scorpions, which led the country's efforts to bring high-profile organised criminals to justice. She led a team of senior prosecutors and investigators that dealt successfully with complex forensic investigations on financial matters. This unique experience with the DSO is hugely significant to the current leadership required to take the ID forward.

Advocate Johnson has demonstrated her ability to work under pressure in the most high-profile and complex prosecution matters. She led the Scorpions team that investigated and prosecuted the Brett Kebble matter, which involved fraud and theft of the JCI and RGE Mines to the value of R4,1 billion. She was also part of the prosecuting team in the corruption cases against Jackie Selebi and Solly Lazarus, the CFO of Crime Intelligence. Advocate Johnson was a key member of the team that prosecuted Oscar Pistorius, where she successfully argued the matter of sentence before the appeal court. These cases created daily headlines, in South Africa and internationally.

Advocate Johnson is well-placed to lead the ID during its next era which will be all about action and impact. She has demonstrated her commitment and resolve to serve the people of South Africa, to uphold the Constitution and the law, and work tirelessly to ensure accountability for those who commit the most serious crimes in our country.



Unpacking the Economics of Inequality in South Africa

CASSANDRA DUNSTAN

Cassandra Dunstan matriculated from Assumption Convent in 2012. She went on to major in Economics and was awarded the Post Graduate Merit Award scholarship by the University of the Witwatersrand for the 2016 academic year. She was also recognized as the top female student in the 2016 Honours program by Bain & Company before being a recipient of the GTAC Masters in Economics program where she subsequently obtained her Masters in Economics from the University of the Witwatersrand in 2018. Upon graduating, her Masters Research Paper was cited in a United Nations Publication titled "The State of African Cities - The geography of African Investment". Cassandra joined National Treasury as a

graduate intern in 2019 before being assigned to her current role as Economist. Cassandra has been based in the Economic Policy division under the chief directorate of Modelling and Forecasting for the last three years.

Her and her team are responsible for the production of macroeconomics forecasts in particular, economic growth and inflation. One of Cassandra's key responsibilities includes producing the National Treasury's inflation forecast. Her team's forecasts help to inform economic policy, the fiscal framework, tax revenue forecasts and the country's debt management strategy.

***"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away;
Behold, all things are become new."***

2 Corinthians 5:17



Climbing the ladder in stillets

DR ANDRI BARNES

Dr Andri Barnes completed her Higher Diploma in Education and her Masters in History at the university of the Free State in Bloemfontein. She has taught all over South Africa, giving her a wealth of knowledge about education in the country. She began her teaching in the Eastern Cape in 1981 at Ugie High School, before moving to Barkley West High School in the Northern Cape and then Forest High School in Johannesburg. In 1997 she moved to Kwazulu Natal to take up a teaching position at Glenwood High School. In 2007 she was promoted to the position of Deputy Principal in charge of Academics and

Pastoral Care. While there she established a designated boarding pastoral care portfolio and was appointed Principal in 2017. She is the first female Principal in Glenwood High's history. Dr Andri Barnes is also the first female principal of a traditional all boys school in South Africa. She then went onto complete her PHD in Gender Studies through the University (KZN), with her focus being The construction of teenage boys' masculinities in a single sex boarding schools. Dr Andri Barnes, whilst being an avid academic, enjoys her sport and in particular rugby. In 2019 she coached the 7th rugby team at Glenwood.



Leading the Student Panel Discussion

DR DEON OERSON

Dr Deon Oerson has a Higher Diploma in Education, a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Education, a Masters in Psycho-Educational Development (Cum Laude), and Doctorate in Educational Psychology.

He is married to the love of his life Martha and is blessed with two beautiful children, Carl and Courtney Ann, who are both young adults. His family is his inspiration and share in both his successes and misfortunes. His professional career has spanned 32 years and the journey continues. He is currently heading up Holy Rosary School for Girls and serves as Chair of the ISASA Central Regional Council. He is also the head of the ISASA Sub Committee for Transformation and Diversity. He is registered with the Association for Supportive Counsellors and Holistic Practitioners (ASCHP) as a Specialist Counsellor. His previous role as Head of Campus, Wellness and Advancement at St Benedict's, deepened his understanding of the importance of the impact of social-emotional and social-economic awareness on effective ethos and mission building in schools. He truly believes that the voice of young people should be heard in spaces

where decisions are made, and their lived experience should guide policies and practices in schools. He believes that as adults we hold the power to be of significance in the lives of young people, we surround ourselves with daily and as Paulo Coelho wrote in 1947:

"Every Warrior of the Light has felt afraid of going into battle. Every Warrior of the Light has, at some time in the past, lied or betrayed someone. Every Warrior of the Light has trodden a path that was not his. Every Warrior of the Light has suffered for the most trivial of reasons. Every Warrior of the Light has, at least once, believed he was not a Warrior of the Light. Every Warrior of the Light has failed in his spiritual duties. Every Warrior of the Light has said 'yes' when he wanted to say 'no'. Every Warrior of the Light has hurt someone he loved. That is why he is a Warrior of the Light, because he has been through all this and yet has never lost hope of being better than he is."

As adults in the educational space he feels we are all called to be warriors of light.

Understanding consent: A move towards gender justice

CHARLENE BEUKES-MABASO

Charlene Beukes-Mabaso was appointed as the Director of the Gender Equity Office on 1 May 2019. The Gender Equity Office is a holistic, autonomous, and integrated office at the University of the Witwatersrand that deals with all aspects of gender-based harm and the advancement of gender equity. Charlene obtained her LLB and LLM from Wits University and was admitted as an attorney by the Law Society of the Northern Provinces in 2011.

She is currently pursuing a masters in diversity studies from the Centre for Diversity Studies at Wits. Her legal experience includes family, gender and

child law as well as working with refugees. She has held positions at ProBono. Org and the Wits Law Clinic where she represented the most vulnerable members of our society. Prior to her appointment, she worked at the Wits Legal Service, the University's legal office, handling the University's contracts and matters of student discipline. She is no stranger to the work of the GEO as she previously served for three years as the Advocacy and Investigations Officer (Attorney). Charlene is the founder and current chairperson of the community of practice for gender practitioners on South African university campuses as well as the co-chairperson of the University's University Forum.