



Prof Ronit Frenkel

The University of Johannesburg acquired *The Thinker* in April 2019 from Dr Essop Pahad. Over the last decade, *The Thinker* has gained a reputation as a journal that explores Pan-African issues across fields and times. Ronit Frenkel, as the incoming editor, plans on maintaining the pan-African scope of the journal while increasing its coverage into fields such as books, art, literature and popular cultures. *The Thinker* is a 'hybrid' journal, publishing both journalistic pieces with more academic articles and contributors can now opt to have their submissions peer reviewed. We welcome Africa-centred articles from diverse perspectives, in order to enrich both knowledge of the continent and of issues impacting the continent.



Nedine Moonsamy

Nedine Moonsamy is an associate professor in the English department at the University of Johannesburg. She is currently writing a monograph on contemporary South African Fiction and otherwise conducts research on science fiction in Africa. Her debut novel, *The Unfamous Five* (Modjaji Books, 2019) was shortlisted for the HSS Fiction Award (2021), and her poetry was shortlisted for the inaugural New Contrast National Poetry Award (2021).

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS EDITION - All contributing analysts write in their personal capacity

Contributors to this Edition

Marissa Brits is currently registered for her PhD in Psychology at the University of Johannesburg. Her PhD focuses on expatriate experiences and the Covid-19 pandemic. Her research interests are in identity and narrative psychology.

Mlamli Diko is a lecturer and researcher at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in the Department of African Languages. Specifically, he lectures on the language and literature of isiXhosa. His research interests focus predominantly on indigenous African languages, traditional and modern literature, feminist discourses, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), and issues concerning colonialism and its influence in the South African context. He has published a number of original research articles in DHET-accredited journals. In the process, he serves as a supervisor and external examiner for postgraduate students.

Sizwe Zwelakhe Dlamini is currently a lecturer in the Department of African Languages, under the Faculty of Humanities, at the University of Johannesburg. In 2019, he worked as a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Education under the Department of Childhood Education (University of Johannesburg). Dlamini was then absorbed by the Department of African Languages in 2020 as a temporary lecturer before he became an Assistant Lecturer in 2022. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree in Senior and FET Phase, a BA Honours degree in African Languages (both obtained with distinctions), and Master's and Doctoral degrees also in African languages. Sizwe is a recipient of the National Research Fund (NRF) (for Honours in 2018), Global Excellence Scholarship (for Master's in 2019), and NIHSS-SAHUDA Doctoral Scholarship (from 2021–2023). He has published several research

articles in local and international journals, with some of these articles presented at local conferences.

Collins Osayuki Edigin is a lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. He is also a visiting research fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University College, London. His area of research is Political Economy, where he has demonstrated the impact of tax policies on political development and social structure in Colonial Benin. He is a member of the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) and Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, United Kingdom.

Frank Ikponmwosa is an Associate Professor of History and currently the Acting Head of the Department of History and International Studies at the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. His areas of interest are Benin Studies, as well as the Economic and Social History of West Africa, with a particular emphasis on economic problems and the challenges of colonialism. He has published numerous scholarly works in journals, as well as chapters in books. He is a member of the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN).

Zaakirah Jeeva graduated from the North-West University as a Town and Regional Planner. She has lectured Regional Planning, Economics and Geography at various tertiary institutions nationally. Zaakirah has also worked as a researcher at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Khanya-Acidd, North-West University (NWU), and University of Johannesburg (UJ). She is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Thabo Mbeki School of Public and International Affairs (UNISA) and specialises in the field of spatial administrative reform and dysfunctional municipalities.

Thandokazi Maseti is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Johannesburg and is currently registered for her PhD studies in Psychology at the University of Johannesburg. Her PhD focuses on issues of transformation in South African universities, with a specific interest in Black women academics' experiences of academic development. Her research interests draw from feminist and critical psychology theories. She is

currently writing on the intersectionality of race, gender, and class on identities in contemporary South Africa.

Wian Oosthuizen holds an Honours in Town and Regional Planning from North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus). He has a keen interest in green space planning and community development.

Vhonani MS Petla is a social science researcher with an interest in digital policy, development, social media, and contemporary South African politics. Her recent publications include an article titled 'Information Disorders and Civil Unrest: An Analysis of the July 2021 Unrest in South Africa.' She has recently completed her MA in Development Studies in a joint program between the University of Johannesburg and the University of the West Indies. The study looked at virtual communities in South Africa.

Anton M. Pillay is a PDRF based at SARCHI: African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy (UJ). Prof C. Landsberg supervised his MA and PhD. Pillay is currently a 2nd year Masters in Higher Education student.

Ugljesa Radulovic completed his entire higher education at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), where he obtained a BA degree in Sociology, Honours, MA and PhD degrees in Industrial Sociology, with his doctoral thesis titled 'State Capture, Civil Society Organisations and Whistleblowing under the Zuma Presidency'. He is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at UJ's Department of Sociology. His research is focused on South Africa's legislative instruments for the protection of whistleblowers; support structures for whistleblowers in the absence of adequate statutory protection; and the examination of whistleblowers' experiences in the face of retaliation. Ugljesa has published research on academic dishonesty and whistleblowing, and on corruption, state capture, and whistleblowing. He has presented his work at several South African and international conferences. He has also lectured at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at UJ's Department of Sociology, as well as at a postgraduate level at UJ's School of Public Management and Governance.

Helene Strauss is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of the Free State. Her current research focuses on Southern African audio-visual culture, feminist and queer aesthetic activisms, mining, and embodied pedagogy. Recent publications include the book *Wayward Feeling: Audio-visual Culture and Aesthetic Activism in Post-Rainbow South Africa* (University of Toronto Press); co-edited special issues of the journals *Critical Arts* and *Studies in Social Justice* (in progress); and a book titled *Contemporary African*

Mediations of Affect and Access (co-edited with Jessie Forsyth and Sarah Olutola). Her academic awards include a Canadian Governor General's Gold Medal, a Standard Research Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, a Publication Grant from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and two consecutive ratings from the South African National Research Foundation. She currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the global Association for Cultural Studies.