

WIJSBEGEERTE *Philosophie* Φιλοσοφία 哲学 *Filosofia* Fi

African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science ([ACEPS](#))

11 am Tuesday, 6 February 2024

UJ on Empire 11th-Floor

NIHSS funded Philosophy Through IKS series presents:

Dr. Monicca Bhuda (University of Mpumalanga) on “Applying appropriate research methodologies within the academy. Insights from African Indigenous Knowledge Systems discipline”



Abstract: Historically, research has not been a pleasant experience for indigenous communities whose knowledge was collected by researchers using Western methods. By using Western methods, Indigenous people and their knowledge were marginalized and misrepresented within the academy. Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, being, and living which are a part of their worldviews were ignored and never been regarded as essential to research. Furthermore, during the research process, indigenous people have been treated as subjects and their worldviews have been disregarded, instead of being treated as participants and owners of the research. Based on the past discrimination that indigenous people have experienced, Indigenous scholars have been working with communities from which they come to erase injustice, misrepresentations and marginalization within research. Together, they have come to grasp how different Indigenous research methods might be expressed and used in order to represent, enact, and renew the African Indigenous knowledge systems themselves. Therefore, it has been argued by scholars who represent indigenous people within the academy that indigenous research methodologies should be applied by both indigenous and non-indigenous researchers in research as a way of generating knowledge and way of responding to the processes of colonization. Indigenous research methodologies encompass a spectrum of values and principles that have been created by Indigenous peoples in response to their own distinct epistemologies (ways of being), ontologies (ways of thinking) and axiologies (ways of doing). Academics need to realize that for research to be relevant, they must conduct it in a way that respects the knowledge, language, culture, and customs of participating communities which is essential to building positive long-lasting relationships with the communities. Using indigenous research methodologies by researchers is a step towards decolonizing and indigenizing academic research which is an approach to challenge western methods that have been used to undermine indigenous knowledge systems and indigenous people.

Dr Monicca Bhuda



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Bio: Dr Monica Thulisile Bhuda (PhD)

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Dr Monica Thulisile Bhuda is an indigenous scholar, children's book author, award winning academic and cultural heritage expert. At the University of Mpumalanga, Dr. Bhuda coordinates a course and lectures on culture and heritage studies. She graduated from North-West University with a Bachelor's degree (hons) in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, a Master's degree also in Indigenous Knowledge Systems and a PhD studies in Social Sciences with indigenous Knowledge Systems. Dr Bhuda's PhD research focused on Ndebele mathematics as a means of cultural identity. Dr Bhuda is also registered for her 2nd PhD in Human Sciences with the University of KwaZulu- Natal. She has been featured on numerous media platforms such as TV, Radio, Magazines and Newspapers that were based on her interests as an indigenous scholar and on Indigenous Knowledge Systems. She has also written a number of publications on various subjects related to Indigenous Knowledge Systems, which is a multidisciplinary discipline. Her interests include: decolonization of education, African Indigenous research methodologies, cultural heritage tourism; traditional medicine, traditional customary laws and leadership, promotion of indigenous languages, indigenous knowledge preservation, protection, management and dissemination.



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