

# UKZN-UNIZULU

## Philosophy Seminar Series

30<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 | Wednesday @ 14h00-15h30

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### *Discursive Linguistic Injustice and Epistemic Reparations*

Nomaswazi Kubeka

University of Johannesburg | African Centre for Epistemology and the Philosophy of Science (ACEPS)



**Abstract:** Discursive injustice is a concept developed by Quill Kukla (2014) in an analogous sense with epistemic injustice to capture the kind of injustice that takes place when certain speakers' speech acts are not only silenced but further changed and altered to perform an unintended act and are therefore distorted (Kukla, 2014). In this talk, I aim to provide an account of how certain speakers experience this kind of discursive injustice due to language and linguistic injustice in our communicative structures, an occurrence, I conceptualise as a discursive linguistic injustice. In cases of discursive linguistic injustice, it is the language matters and consequent linguistic injustices within the testimonial or communicative exchange that results in this kind of injustice. Following this, I argue that such cases are epistemic injustices and thus require epistemic reparations, which are "intentionally reparative actions in the form of epistemic goods given to those epistemically wronged by parties who acknowledge these wrongs and whose reparative actions are intended to redress them" (Lackey, 2022). Finally, I demonstrate specific epistemic goods and actions for two paradigmatic cases of discursive linguistic injustice. The thesis presented in this talk contributes to the field of applied philosophy of language, epistemic injustice and the growing scholarship on the topic of 'Epistemic Reparations' by Jennifer Lackey.

#### **Bio:**

Nomaswazi Kubeka is a doctoral candidate at the University of Johannesburg's (UJ) Philosophy Department, and postgraduate member in the African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science (ACEPS). She was recently awarded the Globalink Research Award (GRA), for the project 'Theorizing Indigenous Group Silencing: Canadian and South African Perspectives'. She holds a BA in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics from UJ where she also obtained her Honours and master's qualifications. Her Honours research focused on the Metaethics of Ubuntu and her Master's (which she obtained with distinction) on African Indigenous Languages and Epistemic Oppression, through the ACEPS Indigenous Languages in Philosophy MA scholarship (2020-2021). Her PhD research is titled "Linguistic Justice and Epistemic Redress". It is an interdisciplinary study that draws on three different branches of philosophy, namely the philosophy of language, epistemic (in)justice and epistemic oppression, and African philosophy. Her dissertation aims to bring to light the value, necessity and importance of linguistic and epistemic redress.



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