

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology invites you to their departmental seminar presented by Dr Nonhlanhla Vilakazi (Palaeo-Research Institute (P-RI), University of Johannesburg)

TRANSFORMATION IN PALAEOLOGY: GOING NOWHERE SLOWLY

Date: 27 July 2022

Time: 13:00 – 14:00

Venue: TEAMS Platform

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Palaeontology has grown immensely in southern Africa over the past 50 years. Narrations from local communities have shown that people who have never been acknowledged in fact either made the discovery, or knew of its existence and significance (Vilakazi, 2019). The purpose of this discussion is to question the system; try to understand why 26 years later, there are still a handful of Black students in the Palaeontology discipline (or Palaeosciences in general). There has been a broad variety of transformation-oriented programs aimed at effecting systemic reform in higher education since 1994. Higher education in South Africa, like other Anglophone nations, has evolved from a universal welfare entitlement to a human capital private investment, prompting the higher education industry to change its instructional leadership in line with its commitment to free market principles (Peters, 2007). Why are we, as Palaeoscientists, still failing in transforming these disciplines?