

Contributors

Mbongiseni Buthelezi

Mbongiseni Buthelezi holds a PhD in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University, New York, where he also obtained a Master of Philosophy in English and Comparative Literature. A dedicated scholar, he graduated cum laude from both the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Natal, earning a Master of Arts in English Studies and Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in English and Drama, respectively. Working in various academic and activist capacities, Mbongiseni has been interested in how the state interfaces with citizens in areas that include land restitution, the role of traditional leaders in governance, heritage and public archives. With various collaborators he has researched and written on the state's constructions of the identities of citizens in KwaZulu-Natal through heritage discourse and commemorative events. He has also written on land and citizenship rights in rural areas and the role of traditional leaders in the realisation of these rights, as well as the dire state of public archives and its implications for accountable government.

Aninka Claassens

Aninka Claassens is Director of the Land & Accountability Research Centre (LARC) in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town. She has been a land activist in South Africa for many years. She worked with communities who were resisting forced removals and farm evictions during the 1980s as part of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC), a project of the Black Sash. She was a senior researcher at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand from 1990–1996, during which time she was a technical advisor (land rights) to the Constitutional Assembly. She was an advisor to the Ministry of Land Affairs from 1996–1999. Between 1999 and 2009 she worked with the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape and for the Legal Resources Centre. Aninka was a member of the High-Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change chaired by Kgalema Motlanthe during 2016 and 2017. Aninka holds a PhD in Development Studies.

Peter Delius

Peter Delius retired as Professor and Head of the Department of History, University of the Witwatersrand, in 2016. His research has focused on the history of the Pedi kingdom and his books include: *The Land Belongs to Us* (1983), *A Lion Amongst the Cattle* (1997), *Mpumalanga: An Illustrated History* (with Michelle Hay, 2009) and *Forgotten World: The Stone-Walled Settlements of the Mpumalanga Escarpment* (with Tim Maggs and Alex Schoeman, 2014). He has written extensively on rural issues and migrant labour, and in recent years has been deeply involved in research on land restitution and tenure reform. His most recent book, co-authored with William Beinart and Michelle Hay, is *Rights to Land* (2017).

William Ellis

William Ellis is a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of the Western Cape. For the past eight years he has served as a lecturer and tutorial programme coordinator in the department. Prior to this (1999–2003), he worked as a research fellow at the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), during which he conducted fieldwork among the Khomani San of the southern Kalahari. This research served as the basis for his PhD dissertation, titled ‘Genealogies and Narratives of San Authenticities’.

Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa (Ah! Dilizintaba)

Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa (Ah! Dilizintaba) is a traditional leader of amaGebe (aka amaHegebe) Clan of Mqanduli, Thembuland. He is former Chairperson and member of a number of Parliamentary Committees, including the Joint Constitutional Review Committee, Agriculture and Land Affairs and Provincial and Local Government. He was President of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa) from 1990 until 2013. During his tenure as President of Contralesa, Dilizintaba sought to gain meaningful recognition for the institution of traditional leaders in South Africa. In 2011, he published a book entitled *A Double-Edged Sword*, which outlines the history and formation of Contralesa, which was followed the next year by another entitled *According to Tradition*.

Sonwabile Mnwana

Sonwabile Mnwana is Associate Professor and Head of Department of Sociology at the University of Fort Hare, East London. He is the former deputy director of the Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP), University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg. He is currently a research associate at SWOP (Wits). Sonwabile’s research focuses on the meanings of land, extractives and rural social change.

He has published widely in reputable scholarly and public platforms. He is also Project Leader for the research project: ‘Mineral Wealth and Politics of Distribution on the Platinum Belt’. This research project is funded by the Open Society Foundation for South Africa. Some of the work in Sonwabile’s chapter has been produced under this project. Sonwabile is also the former president of the South African Sociological Association (2016–2017).

Sindiso Mnisi Weeks

Sindiso Mnisi Weeks is Assistant Professor, Public Policy of Excluded Populations, in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She is also Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Public Law at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where she was previously a senior researcher in the Rural Women’s Action Research Programme at the Centre for Law and Society, combining research, advocacy and policy work on women, property, governance and participation under customary law and the South African Constitution. Dr Mnisi Weeks received her DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar based at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. Prior to Oxford, she clerked for then Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Dikgang Moseneke.

Tlhabane Mokhine ‘Dan’ Motaung

Tlhabane Mokhine ‘Dan’ Motaung worked for the South African government for 15 years as a speechwriter for former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe. His general areas of interest include world history, African history, classical philosophy and African philosophy as well as political economy. His particular area of research is South African history. He is a senior researcher at MISTRA.

Fani Ncapayi

Fani Ncapayi holds a PhD (2013) in Sociology from the University of Cape Town (UCT), and is currently an honorary research associate of the Centre for African Studies (CAS), UCT. His passion for poor rural people has linked him to the land-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) Cala University Students Association (CALUSA) in Cala, Eastern Cape. He is currently a senior researcher for the Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE) – a national NGO. His work combines research with organising and supporting rural residents in their struggles for socio-economic justice. Ncapayi's research interests are land and agrarian issues, as well as rural governance.

Nkosi Mwelo Nonkonyana (Zanemvula)

Nkosi Mwelo Nonkonyana (Zanemvula) is Head of the Ama-Bahla clan. Presently, in 2018, he serves as Chairman of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa) in the Eastern Cape, as well as Chairman of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders. Trained as a lawyer, Nonkonyana is also an advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

Dineo Skosana

Dineo Skosana is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Studies, Wits University and a lecturer at North-West University, Vaal Triangle Campus. She is a Wits History Workshop and City Institute affiliate. Her doctoral project investigates the contestations over African grave site removals in a coal mined area in Tweefontein, Mpumalanga. She holds a Master of Arts in Political Studies and has expertise in traditional leadership disputes and local governance

in South Africa. Her broad range of research interests includes indigenous politics, governance, policy, heritage, religion, as well as land restitution in South Africa.

Beth Vale

Beth Vale is a researcher in the Humanity Faculty at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA). Her research interests span health and illness, body politics and everyday configurations of power and privilege in South African society. Her PhD (from the University of Oxford) and her master's (from the University of Cape Town) theses produced ethnographic work on the ways that HIV treatment is delivered, used and appropriated in South Africa's Western and Eastern Cape. Before joining MISTRA, she worked as a postdoctoral fellow of the Wits History Workshop. In her long-standing effort to bridge research and policy, Beth has worked with a range of NGOs and advocacy groups, and often consults on matters of health policy.

Sithandiwe Yeni

Sithandiwe Yeni is the national coordinator of Tshintsha Amakhaya, a civil society alliance for land and food justice in rural South Africa. She is the former Rural Transformation project manager at Oxfam South Africa, researcher at the Land and Accountability Research Centre at the University of Cape Town and development facilitator at Surplus People Project. She received her master's in Land and Agrarian Studies at the University of the Western Cape and her master's in Development Studies at Erasmus University in the Netherlands. She is an inaugural fellow for the Atlantic Fellowship for Racial Equity hosted by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Columbia University in New York