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STELLENBOSCH  
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**Karoo Futures Colloquium 2021**  
**Social and environmental justice in the Karoo:**  
*Interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives*  
11-12 November 2021  
STIAS, Stellenbosch

**PROGRAMME**

**DAY ONE**

8:00 – 9:00 ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION, TEA/COFFEE

9:00 – 9:15 **WELCOME:** Edward Kirumira, STIAS Director

9:15 – 10:30 **OPENING ADDRESS**

Chair: Steven Robins

Presentation

Cherryl Walker: Reflections on the 'Cosmopolitan Karoo' research programme, 2016 - 2021

10:30 – 11:00 TEA/COFFEE

11:00 – 12:30 **PANEL ONE: Re-curating the past in the present**

*This panel addresses restorative justice and the politics of heritage and commemoration in the Northern Cape.*

Chair: Sharron Marco-Thyse

Presentations

1. José de Prada-Samper: Spoken word as heritage: Documenting and publishing the oral traditions of the Karoo communities
2. Nigel Penn: The Sutherland reburial project and the history of the Roggeveld
3. Wendy Annecke: What does burying and re-burying bushmen and women tell us about the present? The case of Dawid Kruiper and the Tankwa skeleton

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 – 15:30 **PANEL TWO: Resource frontiers: Land**

*Is it fruitful to think of the Karoo in terms of 'resource frontiers', both historically and today? The first of two panels on this theme focuses on land and agrarian transformation in a time of significant social-ecological change. What are the key issues for understanding these dynamics and the future of farming in the Karoo and what can be learned from other contexts?*

Chair: Sonwabile Mnwana

Presentations

1. Gina Arena: Long-term rainfall patterns and their implications for land-based livelihoods
2. Philani Moyo: Ecosystem based adaptation and the quest for climate justice in the Eastern Cape
3. Clement Cupido: Requirements for a herding roll-out in the Karoo
4. Marja Spierenburg: Game farming and land reform: Comparative perspectives from Kenya

15:30 – 16:00 TEA/COFFEE

**16:00 – 17:30 PANEL THREE: Dorpscapes: Views from the ground**

*Although often marginalized in academic and political analyses, small towns are where most Karoo residents live and central features of the Karoo landscape. This panel aims to put these ‘dorpscapes’ at the centre with a range of views on social-ecological challenges and change in small country towns ‘from the ground’.*

Chair: Basheer Arries

Presentations

1. Nyaradzo Dhliwayo: Citizen science and community concerns re shale-gas mining in Cradock
2. Rhoda Malgas: Socio-ecological systems in small towns
3. Vishwas Satgar: Day zero in small Karoo towns – A photographic essay

**17:30 – 21:00 RECEPTION**

**18:00 PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION OPENING**

**DAY TWO**

8:00 – 9:00 TEA/COFFEE

**9:00 – 10:30 PANEL FOUR: What is the Karoo?**

*This roundtable discussion addresses a simple yet challenging question: what are we talking about when we say ‘Karoo’? It provides an opportunity to reflect critically on the scholarship on the Karoo from different disciplinary perspectives. Issues for consideration include which and whose meanings are attached to this term and the implications for knowledge production of how boundaries get drawn.*

Chair: Monene Mogashoa

Panellists

1. William Beinart
2. Timm Hoffman
3. James Merron
4. John Parkington

10:30 – 11:00 TEA/COFFEE

**11:00 – 12:30 PANEL FIVE: Making space: Astronomy in the Karoo and beyond**

*In recent years, astronomy has been consolidated as a major land user in the Karoo. This panel reflects on the dynamics of space- and place- making through astronomy, in the Karoo in the first instance but also in comparative perspective. Possible lenses that could be used include development, belonging and the production of knowledge.*

Chair: Ben Cousins

Presentations

1. Davide Chinigò: The SKA and knowledge frontiers
2. Daniel Cunnama: Recording Karoo histories and indigenous starlore
3. Sonal Asgotraa and Ramasamy Venugopal: Astronomy and astro-tourism beyond the Karoo: Comparative perspectives

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

**13:30 – 15:00 PANEL SIX: Resource frontiers: Energy**

*Against the backdrop of global carbon emission targets and accelerated extractivism, the Karoo finds itself at the centre of a new 'minerals-energy complex' in South Africa. In this conjuncture the extraction of non-conventional fossil fuels and transition minerals intersects with the production of renewable energy. This second panel on the theme of the Karoo as a resource frontier takes stock of these developments and how to evaluate them, including from the perspective of social and environmental justice.*

Chair: Michelle Williams

Presentations

1. Tumi Malope: Renewable energy and the just transition from the vantage point of Loeriesfontein in the Karoo
2. Barry Morkel: The Karoo as a site for new energy extraction and development
3. Mzingaye Xaba: Could this be the end of fracking? Examining the dynamics around anti-fracking activism & environmentalism in South Africa (2008-2021)

15:00 – 15:30 TEA/COFFEE

**15:30 – 17:00 PANEL SEVEN: Future research directions**

*This concluding roundtable discussion provides an opportunity to reflect on important themes for further research arising from the colloquium, identify gaps and offer ideas on future directions for research in the broad field of Karoo studies, including through collaborative and interdisciplinary research.*

Chair: Michela Marcatelli

Panellists

1. Emma Archer
2. Stephanie Borchardt
3. William Ellis
4. Hana Petersen

17:00 THANKS AND CLOSE