

CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE



SOUTH AFRICA AFTER THE RAINBOW: Aspiration, Ambition, and Social Mobility

November 14, 2019**5 – 7 p.m.****H-1220, 1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W****Anne-Maria Makhulu**Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology
and African & African American Studies
at Duke University

Anne-Maria Makhulu has conducted research for over two decades in South Africa and is author of *Making Freedom* (Duke University Press 2015) about South Africa's transition to democracy. She is also co-editor of a collection entitled *Hard Work, Hard Times* (University of California Press 2010), which examines African migration, the global search for livelihood, and questions of cultural resilience. Makhulu has published articles in *Anthropological Quarterly* and *PMLA*, served as special issue guest editor for *South Atlantic*

Quarterly and special theme section guest editor of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*.

South Africa After the Rainbow, a manuscript in preparation, examines the relationship between black socio-economic success, educational opportunity, and the aspirations of “born frees”—young people born into freedom in South Africa following the country’s democratization. Given the reality of political freedom, economic crisis, and lingering racism can the fact of acquiring education and training, by itself, surmount the very real hurdles to black economic and professional success? *South Africa After the Rainbow* addresses the emergence of #FeesMustFall and #RhodesMustFall—campus-based hashtag movements—and their demand for free education and the decolonization of the university and its curriculum. Connecting the activism of contemporary university-age students to other repertoires of struggle, the hashtag movements stand out as both similar to and quite distinct from a range of other movements organized around the demand for freedom and dignity in South Africa.

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