The Faculty of Arts & Design,
Tshwane University of Technology
invites you to our **A Re Bueng Seminar Series.**

NAME: Dr Herman Botes, Head of Department, Visual Communication
DATE: 24 April 2023
TIME: 12:00 – 13:00
VENUE: Building 25 – Room 25 (Visual Communication Lecture Studio),
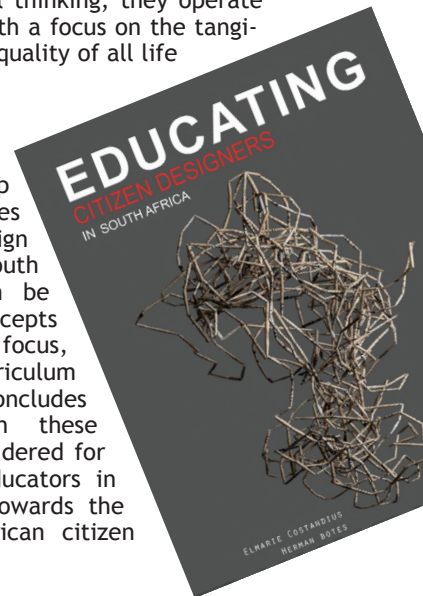24 Du Toit Street (corner Du Toit & Struben Streets), Arts Campus

Exploring critical citizenship and decolonisation as a framework for design education in South Africa

The presenter will share the results of his PhD in Visual Arts completed under the supervision of Prof Elmarie Costandius at the University of Stellenbosch. In this study, the call to action for the citizen designer was premised on the #Feesmustfall campaign and the #Rhodesmustfall student protests. The importantce of the role of the citizenry in South Africa was further brough to the fore by the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, the July 2021 social unrest as well as rampant corruption in our public and private sectors. Our current context together with the global growth in nationalism call for a renewed focus on developing critical citizenship in South Africa.

Within the field of design, the concept of citizen designer is established. It was considered that the notion of educating a 'citizen designer' could be further developed in the South African design education context. The study therefore focused on how critical citizenship and decolonisation perspectives can contribute to a design pedagogy framework for citizen designer education in the context of South African universities of technology. A qualitative research approach was taken that involved case study research methodology. The data in the study was collected from a survey of and interviews with South African design educators and students.

From the data, South African citizen designers can be described as designers that have a deep understanding of the self, ethics and critical thinking; they operate in transdisciplinary settings with a focus on the tangible betterment of sustainable quality of all life through a caring conscience.

The study determined that the themes in critical citizenship and decolonisation perspectives that can contribute to design pedagogy for educating a South African citizen designer can be broadly categorised into concepts related to context, African focus, personal development and curriculum development. The study concludes with suggested themes in these categories that could be considered for implementation by design educators in their specific field working towards the development of a South African citizen designer.

BIOGRAPHY

Herman Botes is the current Head of the Department of Visual Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Design. His undergraduate qualifications are in the areas of Graphic Design and Public Relations. He completed his Master's in Arts Education at the University of Stellenbosch and proceeded to achieve his PhD in Visual Arts at the same institution.

He is a multiple recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Certificate of Recognition for Excellence, received two National awards for best Annual Report Design (Educational and Local Council), as well as the Carl & Emily Fuchs Foundation Award for an Arts Education Project in Soshanguve. He and his students also won the re-branding competition for the City of Tshwane. In 2018, he was elected president of the Southern African Design Educators Forum (DEFSA) and is currently a senate member of DEFSA. In 2022, he completed the Teaching Advancement at Universities (TAU) Fellowship. He is frequently involved as a programme evaluator for the Council on Higher Education (CHE) in the accreditation of design-based programmes in South Africa.

As researcher, Botes is focused on the advancement of design education in South Africa and presented papers on the topic in the US, Africa and Europe. He also guest lectured at the Saxion Hogeschool in the Netherlands and represented South African Design education at the World Design Organisation. He facilitated a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programme between TUT and New York-based design schools.

Everyone is welcome to attend, including fourth-year students and beyond. **Limited seats available**.

If you wish to attend, please ***Click here to confirm your attendance****, not later than* **20 April 2023** *by 14:00.*

To join us online, ***Click here to join the meeting***

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