



**Tshwane University
of Technology**
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20
YEARS
2004-2024

**Faculty of
Arts & Design**



Research Niche Area

Artivism

as a tool to
combat Gender-Based Violence(s)

Programme

Monday, 20 May 2024
TUT Arts Campus, Building 25 - Room 25

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Dr Mienke Fouchè

8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and registration	
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome	Dr Mienke Fouchè
9:10 - 9:20	Dialoguing through the many faces of Gender-Based Violence	Prof Nalini Moodley
9:20 - 10:00	Moving hearts, minds and bodies: dance as a pathway to healing from Gender-Based Violence	Prof Smitha Radhakrishnan, Wellesley College, USA
10:00 - 10:30	Q & A for the above presenters	
10:30 - 10:55	Coffee break and network	
11:00 - 11:20	Harnessing Arts-Based Approaches: A South African Perspective on Gender-Based Violence Survivors	Dr Moreoagae Bertha Randa
11:25 - 11:45	2nd Year Fashion Design students participating in a simulated Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) project that focuses on addressing Gender-Based Violence	Ms Rosemary Naidoo
11:50 - 12:10	The instrumentalisation of Netspeak in Social Media Correspondences on Gender-Based Violence in South Africa	Ms Lebogang Setlhabane
12:15 - 12:35	Art as Resistance: Using co-design methods to brainstorm Gender-Based Violence Interventions	Ms Inge Newport
12:40 - 13:00	Embodied forms of resistance	Dr Karina Lemmer & Dr Nicola Haskins
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 13:50	[in]crusted - a performance excerpt	Prof Janine Lewis
13:50 - 14:10	The use of sexist language among university students as a contributor to Gender- Based Violence	Ms Priscilla Mawela, Dr Madikwa Segabutla & Dr Priscilla Nesamvuni
14:10 - 14:30	Resonating Strength - A Community Engagement Campaign	Dr Rostislava Paskhevitch-Ngobeni
14:30 - 14:50	Facilitating healing and artmaking through listening otherwise in the face of Gender-Based Violence in South Africa	Ms Thandi Bombi
14:50 - 15:10	Unveiling the Veil: Understanding Domestic Violence Dynamics in Kalenjii Communities of Kenya	Prof Anne Mastamet-Mason
15:10 - 15:30	Q & A for the above speakers	
15:30 - 16:00	Conclusion and moving forward	

Moving hearts, minds and bodies: dance as a pathway to healing from Gender-Based Violence

Abstract

This presentation addresses the importance of translating feminist social scientific research into social justice-oriented artistic practice. Social scientific approaches to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) focus on definition, pervasiveness, social structure, and social norms. A critical feminist social scientific approach goes further, integrating feminist theory, activism and praxis, while also addressing how gender as a structure intersects with race, class, sexuality and ability. Feminist social science helps illuminate the public character of GBV, even though GBV often takes private forms: within families, communities, intimate relationships, and homes.

A feminist social scientific perspective also supports work that centers the lived experience of marginalized women in their actual intimate, social, economic and political life-worlds. Although feminist social science can advance public understanding and help develop policy around GBV, however, its role in changing hearts and minds is ultimately limited by its mediated format. Reasoned critical arguments, whether written or explained orally, have a limited capacity to change deeply ingrained views and prompt everyday individuals to question their own actions, which may diverge from their publicly stated views. In contrast, embodied artistic performance is experienced as a kinesthetic, multi-sensory experience. In particular, mimetic dance that involves movement, story, and poetry, calls upon participants to undertake a lived experience, one that activates the body, heart and mind together.

Drawing on theories of dance/movement psychotherapy, this presentation focuses on how cultural dance can be expanded and interpreted to heal from GBV. By sharing examples of work that aims to facilitate communal, intergenerational healing through cultural dance, this presentation ultimately aims to engage the audience in a broader discussion of how intentional kinesthetic artistic practices can advance artistic processes that promotes individual and societal healing with regard to GBV.

Short Bio

Smitha Radhakrishnan is Marion McLean Butler Professor in the History of Ideas and Professor of Sociology at Wellesley College, USA. An award-winning feminist sociologist and educator, she researches gender, globalization, finance and development in India, the US and South Africa. She is author of *Appropriately Indian: Gender and Culture in a New Transnational Class*, a transnational study of Indian IT workers, *Making Women Pay: Microfinance in Urban India*, a feminist study of India's microfinance industry, and *Sociology of South Asia*, an edited volume with Gowri Vijayakumar that lays out a new agenda for sociology as a discipline.

Her most recent book, *The Gender Order of Neoliberalism*, with Cinzia Solari, integrates her research on feminist political economy, development and nationalism. She received her PhD from UC Berkeley in 2006. Radhakrishnan is also a lifelong Indian classical dancer, having trained extensively with acclaimed teachers in the US and India, and performed extensively in the US and South Africa. Currently, she directs NATyA Dance Collective, a group of rigorously trained dancers producing original work that centers social justice themes. NATyA's most recent work, "Radical Love: A Collective Movement" premiered in Cambridge, Massachusetts in January 2024.

