

SAHUDA INAUGURAL ANNUAL LECTURE 2025

THEME:

Reimagining The Humanities in a Changing World

The Humanities and Social Sciences must confront the imperative to adapt in the face of shifting global dynamics. The upcoming inaugural lecture "Reimagining the Humanities in a Changing World" highlights the urgent need to realign these disciplines within a rapidly evolving higher education landscape, providing leading experts and thought leaders to engage and respond to contemporary challenges in a quest to advocate for transdisciplinary collaboration, dismantling disciplinary hierarchies, and rejecting knowledge imperialism. Exploring new perspectives and methodologies will ensure a more inclusive and impactful academic future. As we navigate complex global challenges, reimagining our role in the knowledge economy is both timely and necessary.

DATE: 20 JUNE 2025

TIME: 14H00 – 16H00

VENUE: SCHOOL OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY,
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

ONLINE ACCESS: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88005664144>

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Sahuda
SOUTH AFRICAN HUMANITIES DEANS' ASSOCIATION



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**PROF
MPIILO PEARL SITHOLE**

Professor Mpiilo Pearl Sithole is a South African social anthropologist whose work explores governance, gender, development, and social inequality. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Durban–Westville and earned her MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge.

A key contributor to transformative scholarship, her work on knowledge reflexivity and “intellectual choreography” interrogates power dynamics in academic discourse. Her book *Unequal Peers* (2009) and numerous articles focus on traditional leadership, development, and the role of social sciences in societal change.

She has held senior academic positions, including Campus Vice-Principal at the University of the Free State (QwaQwa Campus), and served as a Public Service Commissioner in KwaZulu–Natal. Currently an independent researcher and consultant based in Durban, Prof Sithole was honoured with the Women in Science Award in 2011 by South Africa’s Department of Science and Technology. She is also an academican in the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and serves on UNESCO’s MOST Scientific Advisory Committee (2022–2025).