Archie Mafeje Memorial Lecture

LAND AND AGRARIAN REFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA
Lessons from other parts of the continent

4 September 2020 | 10:00 am – 12pm (CAT/SAST) | Online Seminar

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/99768946836?pwd=TzRTVmNzQmVpUzU5dmhud0JrVk1rQT09
South Africans are currently engaged in a fierce and emotive debate on land and agrarian reform. The November 2017 Land Audit report of the Department of Land and Rural Development states that Whites own 72% of farm and agricultural holdings by individual landowners; Coloureds own 15%; Indians own 5% and Africans own 4%. The report further indicates that individual males own 72% of the total farms and agricultural holdings owned by individual owners, whilst females own only 13%. These skewed patterns of land ownership reveal the historical reality of the South African society shaped by past draconian laws.

The Mafeje Memorial Lecture provides a platform to highlight Prof Mafeje’s contribution to our understanding of the Agrarian question, discuss current debates on the land question and to learn from the experiences of other African countries. In Africa most subsistence farmers in communal areas have been facing challenges relating to infertile arable land thereby predisposing themselves to food insecurity and poverty. Land restitution exercises, such as the Fast Track Land Reform Programme undertaken in Zimbabwe, has led to the distribution of land to previously marginalised black majority, however, the exercise also resulted in a plethora of socio-economic and political problems.

Land tenure rights for women have been an issue since the colonial times. Women still own less land, whether solely or jointly, than men. It is important to have a narrative that addresses the plight of women in South Africa and other African countries emanating from this Archie Mafeje Memorial Lecture.

Objectives

i) A celebration of the life of Archie Mafeje and a reflection of his academic contributions;
ii) An analysis of the programmes and challenges of land redistribution in South Africa;
iii) An analysis of the intersections between land reform and food security
iv) A comparative perspective of land and agrarian reform in Africa
v) Women’s rights to land and the associated tenure systems for gender equality.

The expected outcome of this lecture will be monograph capturing the contributions of the panellists. We therefore encourage panellists to also write up their talks into 3000word essays. This we hope will enrich the debate on land reform in South Africa.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Thokozani Simelane, Research Director, AISA-HSRC

10:00 – 10:10  WELCOME REMARKS
Prof Jimi Adesina, DST/NRF SARChI Chair in Social Policy, College of Graduate Studies, UNISA
Dr Godwin Murunga, Executive Secretary, CODESRIA

10:10 – 10:30  INPUTS FROM THE MAFEJE FAMILY
Ms Dana Mafeje, Daughter of Prof Mafeje
Mr Sandile Swana, Family Representative

10:30 – 11:00  PANEL 1: ARCHIE MAFEJE’S SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS
Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza, National Research Foundation (NRF) Research Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa AC Jordan Chair in African Studies at the University of Cape Town
Archie Mafeje: the making of an engaged scholar and insights of his work for current debates on land reform
Dr Bongani Nyoka, Research Fellow, Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education/Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, University of Johannesburg
The lifetime and work of Archie Mafeje

11:00 – 12:00  PANEL 2: LAND AND AGRARIAN REFORM IN AFRICA
Hon Dr Mathole Motshekga, MP (Chair: Ad hoc committee on the alignment of Sec 25 of the constitution) Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
Constitutional options on land ownership in a democratic South Africa
Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi
Key issues emerging from the land and agrarian question in South Africa, what is missing and constitutionally permissible
Dr Walter Chambati, Executive Director, Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Zimbabwe
Land Reform in Zimbabwe: Lessons for South Africa
Advocate Rachel Shibalira
Women’s Land Rights in Africa: Progress and Stagnation
Dr Blessing Masamha, Post Doctoral Fellow, AISA
The intersection between Land Reform and Food Security

DISCUSSION

12:00 – 12:05  CLOSING REMARKS
Prof Cheryl Hendricks, Executive Head, Africa Institute of South Africa, HSRC