THE POLITICS OF ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

23-25 November 2016

University of the Witwatersrand (John Moffat Building and Extension Building, East campus)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Wednesday 23rd November

Registration
Time: 15:00 – 17:30
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building

The exhibition ‘Recollecting Samora - Thirty Years On’ (curated by Gabriele Mohale and Ruth Muller) in currently on display in the foyer of the nearby William Cullen Library

OPENING PUBLIC DIALOGUE: ‘The Armed Struggle: Was it Worth It?’
Time: 18:00 – 19:30
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Speakers: Dumiso Dabengwa, Terry Bell, Ayanda Dlodlo

Thursday 24th November

Time: 08:30 – 9:00
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Welcome and opening remarks

Time: 9:00 – 9:45
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium
First keynote address: ‘Storied Wars: Personal Narratives and Liberation Struggle Histories’
Jocelyn Alexander

Time: 9:45 – 10:30
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium
Second keynote address: ‘The Hero & the New Intellectual: Writing and the Armed Struggle’
Mandla Langa

Time: 10:30 -10:45
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium
Comments & questions
Time: 10:45 – 11:15
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building
Tea & Coffee

Time: 11:15 – 12:25
PARALLEL PANELS 1-2-3-4

Panel 1: Strategic and tactical turning points in South Africa’s liberation struggle (part 1)
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A2
1. Pallo Jordan and Mac Maharaj: ‘South Africa and the Turn to Armed Resistance’
2. Simon Stevens: ‘The “turn to armed struggle” and the “turn to sanctions”, 1960-1969’
Chair: Tshepo Moloi

Panel 2: Film Screening
1. Dieci giorni con i guerriglieri del Mozambico libero (Ten Days with the Guerrillas in Mozambique’s Liberated Areas) (Dir: Franco Cigarini, 1972). Introduced by Chiara Torcianti
Chair: Arianna Lissoni
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building

Panel 3: Patriotic History and the Politics of Memory in Namibia and Zimbabwe
Venue: John Moffat Extension Building Room 001
1. Joseph Mujere, Joost Fontein and Munyaradzi Elton Sagiya: ‘“Those who are not known, should be known by the country”: Patriotic history, liberation heritage and the politics of recognition in Gutu district, southern Zimbabwe’
2. Henning Melber: ‘Armed Liberation Struggle and the Post-colonial narrative in Namibia’
3. Samukele Hadebe: ‘Challenges in Memorializing ZPRA Legacy’
Chair: Jocelyn Alexander

Panel 4: Military veterans post-liberation
Venue: John Moffat Extension Building Room 101
1. Wonga Bottoman: ‘The impact of the negotiated settlement on liberation forces soldiers in South Africa’
3. Zandisiwe Radebe: ‘Negotiated out of existence: Fanonian mediations on APLA and AZANLA combatants’
4. Fumani Mthembu: ‘From Commissar to Obscurity: The Role of Disorganisation in The Struggle for Liberation’

Chair: Judy Seidman

Time: 12:45 – 13:45
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building
Lunch

Time: 13:45 – 15:15
PARALLEL PANELS 5-6-7-8-9

Panel 5: Strategic and tactical turning points in South Africa’s liberation struggle (part 2)
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A2
1. Patrick Mangashe: ‘The armed struggle, the underground and mass mobilisation in South Africa’s border region between 1986-1990 through the experiences of MK cadres’
3. Mike Mzimasi Hala: ‘The Military and the Political in MK Actions in the 1980s: A View from a Senior MK Combatant (Special Forces)’

Chair: Alex Lichtenstein

Panel 6: Biography and Histories of the Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Building Rooms A3
1. Tshepo Moloi: ‘“You have to think of tomato sauce”: The life and times of Thembuyise Simon Mndawe, an MK cadre’
2. Christian Williams: Exile Biography and Un-National History: The Story of Kaufilwa Nepellilo’
3. Hugh Macmillan: ‘Jack Simons and armed struggle’

Chair: Arianna Lissoni

Panel 7: The Media and Representations of the Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Extension Building Room 001
1. Ishmael Makanyisa: ‘The role of the media during the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe from 1966 – 1979’

Chair: Omar Badsha
Panel 8: The Armed Struggle in Poems
Venue: John Moffat Extension Building Room 101
1. Helen Douglas: ‘Need I Remind Anyone Again’?
2. Benny Moyo
3. Makhosazana Xaba: ‘Journeying
Chair: Barry Gilder

Panel 9: Film Screening: Action Kommandant (Dir. Nadine Cloete, 2016)
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building

Time: 15:15 – 15:45
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building
Tea & Coffee

Time: 15:45 – 17:15
PARALLEL PANELS: Panels 10-11-12-13

Panel 10: Gendering the Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A2
2. Jonna Katto: ‘Beautiful Mozambique Haptics of belonging in the life narratives of female war veterans’
Chair: Anne Heffernan

Panel 11: Counterinsurgency and ethnic politics within the armed struggle
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A3
2. Lennart Bolliger: ‘The Post-War Life Trajectories and Historical Narratives of Black Namibian and Angolan ExKoevoet and 32 Battalion Members’
3. John Mwangi Githigaro: ‘(Re)visiting the Impact of Ethnic Divisions in the Armed Struggle in Zimbabwe’
Chair: Saneze Tshayana

Panel 12: Film Screening: The Routes to Freedom (presented by Anton Fisher & Patrick Ricketts)
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Chair: TBC
Panel 13: Mapping the Armed Struggle
Venue: A3 John Moffat Extension Building Room 101
2. Jephias Andrew Dzimbanhete: ‘Sources about guerrilla activities in the Rhodesian countryside during Zimbabwe’s armed struggle: the case of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) field reports’
3. Asa Mudzimu: ‘Convivialities, violence and deprivation: War and everyday life in guerrilla camps in Mozambique and Zambia’
Chair: Noor Nieftagodien

PUBLIC DIALOGUE: ‘Fighting on Two Fronts: Experience and Practice of Gender Struggle within the Armed Struggle in Southern Africa’
Time: 18:00 – 19:30
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Speakers: Thenjiwe Mthintso, Raymond Suttner, Makhosazana Xaba, Graca Machel (TBC)
Chair: Judy Seidman

Friday 25th November

Roundtable discussion 1: Socialist Internationalism and the Armed Struggle
Time: 8:30 – 10:00
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Speakers: Piero Gleijeses, Hans-Georg Schleicher, Vladimir Shubin
Chair: Dumiso Dabengwa

Time: 10:00 – 11:30
PARALLEL PANELS 14-15-16-17

Panel 14: Film Screening: Flame (Dir: Ingrid Sinclair, 1996)
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building

Panel 15: Debates over Non-violence and the Turn to Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A2
2. Robert Vinson and Benedict Carton: ‘Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Use of International Non-Violence in South Africa’s Turn to Armed Struggle’
3. Conrad Chibango: “‘Let my people go”: a liberation theology perspective of Zimbabwe’s armed struggle’
Chair: Phil Bonner

Panel 16: Art and Music in the Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Building Room
1. Judy Seidman: “'National Liberation is necessarily an act of culture': Visual art of the armed struggle in Southern Africa”
2. Retha Langa: ‘An unruly counter-movement to the armed struggle: The revival of song as a weapon in contemporary South Africa’
4. Rithuli Orleyn: ‘Banished Struggle Memories Archived In Sound: Amagwijo As Discourse’

Chair: Gwen Ansell

Panel 17: Pan-African Solidarities and the Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Extension Building Room 101
2. Joel das Neves Tembe: ‘The anti-apartheid struggle and Mozambican solidarity’

Chair: Mandla Langa

Time: 11:30 – 12:00
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building
Tea & Coffee

Time: 12:00 – 13:00
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building

Roundtable discussion 2: The Historiography of MK
Speakers: Janet Cherry, Thula Simpson, Ronnie Kasrils
Chair: Stanley Manong

Time: 13:00 – 14:00
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building
Lunch

Time: 14:00 – 15.30

PARALLEL PANELS 18-19-20
Panel 18: Southern Africa’s Armed Struggle and the World
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A2
2. Benny Moyo: ‘Socialist internationalism and the Zimbabwe People’s Revolutionary Army (ZPRA) – a game-changer’
3. Chiara Torcianti: ‘The struggle continues: Italian reception of the liberation movement in Mozambique’

Chair: Ralph Mathekga
Panel 19: Documenting and Archiving the Armed Struggle
Venue: John Moffat Building Room A3
1. Gabriele Mohale: ‘What comes after the struggle?: From the Archive of Ronnie Kasrils’
3. Zephanaiah Nkomo: ‘Memorialisation and Archiving the Armed Struggle: The ZAPU/ZPRA Archives’
Chair: Xolelwana Kashe-Katiya

Panel 20: Film Screening: Tribute to the Frontline States (Dir. Barbara King, 2014)
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Chair: TBC

Time: 15:30 – 16:00
Venue: Foyer – John Moffat Building
Tea and Coffee

Time: 16:00-17:00
Venue: Dorothy Suskind Auditorium, John Moffat Building
Closing remarks

Time: 17:00 – 18:00
Venue: The Atrium, South West Engineering Building
Music and Dance Performance by
Massacre de Mueda: Makumbusho (Recollections)
Artistic Director: Moisés Bilali
Group Director – Atanásio Nhussi
Stage names, performers names and roles:
Nangwona - Atanáisio Nhussi – Percussionist, singer, main dancer and choreographer
Namakwakwa - Valério Mwale – Percussionist, main singer, choir and choreographer
Ngwiddle - Maurício Nangonga – Dancer, percussionist, singer and choreographer
Ntumissana - Constantino Ntumissana – Dancer, singer and choir

(The performance is supported by an ANT Funding Grant from Pro Helvetia Johannesburg financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).)