



Prof Ronit Frenkel

The University of Johannesburg acquired *The Thinker* in April 2019 from Dr Essop Pahad. Over the last decade, *The Thinker* has gained a reputation as a journal that explores Pan-African issues across fields and times. Ronit Frenkel, as the incoming editor, plans on maintaining the pan-African scope of the journal while increasing its coverage into fields such as books, art, literature and popular cultures. *The Thinker* is a 'hybrid' journal, publishing both journalistic pieces with more academic articles and contributors can now opt to have their submissions peer reviewed. We welcome Africa-centred articles from diverse perspectives, in order to enrich both knowledge of the continent and of issues impacting the continent.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS EDITION - All contributing analysts write in their personal capacity

Tlhabane Mokhine 'Dan' Motaung is a former student and youth activist. He has published articles in the mainstream media and chapters in edited volumes. He is currently a civil servant. His interests include classical antiquity, history (South African, African, and world), international political economy, classical and African philosophy, and rejected knowledge.

George Hull is a senior lecturer and NRF YI-rated researcher in the Philosophy Department, University of Cape Town. He lectures on Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Business Ethics, and History of Philosophy. Together with Jimmy Winfield and Greg Fried, he co-authored *Business Ethics and Other Paradoxes: How Philosophy Answers Questions About the Ethics of Business* (Fairest Cape Press, 2014). He is editor of *The Equal Society: Essays on Equality in Theory and Practice* (Lexington Books, 2015) and *Debating African Philosophy: Perspectives on Identity, Decolonial Ethics and Comparative Philosophy* (Routledge, 2019). He has published essays in academic journals and collections on topics including transitional justice, democracy, reification, social equality, affirmative action, higher education funding, and South African literature.

Gerson Uaripi Tjihenuna holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a BA Degree in Political Science. He served as a Senior Civil Servant in the Cabinet Office of the Republic of Namibia and the Namibian Parliament respectively. He was the Board Chairperson of Air Namibia (2016–2018) and is currently a Commissioner of Elections in the Republic of Namibia. Furthermore, he was also a Senior Lecturer in Labour Studies at the International University of Management.

Tamunodein Princewill is an International Relations student at the University of Cape Town. She comments on the socio-political relations occurring within the African continent, and between the African continent and Western states.

Isha Dilraj is a doctoral candidate in the School of Education at the University of Cape Town, and a National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences Scholar. She is currently a Research Assistant for the Political Economy of Education Research (PEER) Network in the African Hub, which is funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) to support ground-breaking impactful research in conflict-affected regions, and is engaging in research using Political Economy Analysis within conflict-affected regions in Africa. Isha has worked in the higher education sector in South Africa where she engaged in administration and planning, project management, staff-and-student development, system development, and observing policy formulation and implementation. This experience drives Isha's resolve to contribute to research in the complex higher education arena in post-apartheid South Africa and was the catalyst to her pursuing full-time doctoral studies. She has represented UCT at the North-South-South Higher Education Conference in Namibia, which focused on Democracy and Quality Education for All, and at the UN Millennium Development Goals Symposium. Her research interests include education policy, higher education, political economy of education, theories of power, access, and transformation.

Letlhokwa George Mpedi completed his B Juris degree (1996) and LLB degree (1998) at Vista University. In 2001, the LLM degree in Labour Law was conferred upon him by the then Rand Afrikaans University (now University of Johannesburg). He was twice the recipient of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) award (in 2000 and 2001, for purposes of researching in Germany for his LLM dissertation and LLD thesis respectively). Upon completing his LLB, he was employed as a Junior Lecturer in the Department of Mercantile Law at Vista University (Mamelodi Campus). He joined the Centre for International and Comparative Labour and Social Security Law (CICLASS) at the then Rand Afrikaans University as a researcher in 2000. In August 2003, Professor Mpedi accepted a position as a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law in Munich (Germany). Upon his return from Germany in 2006, he was employed as a Deputy Director at CICLASS. In the same year, the LLD degree in Mercantile Law was conferred upon him by the University of Johannesburg. Before his current position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic (designate), Professor Mpedi served as Head of Department of Practical Business Law (January 2011–December 2012), Vice-Dean (January 2013–December 2015), Director at CICLASS (January 2009–December 2015), and Executive Dean (January 2016–December 2020) at the Faculty of Law of the University of Johannesburg. He lectured labour law and social security to LLB, post-graduate, and certificate students. He has delivered papers at numerous national and international conferences. Professor Mpedi publishes on labour law and social security.

Kyla Hazell is a popular educator with the NGO Ndifuna Ukwazi, where she supports social movement partners struggling for spatial justice in Cape Town. She serves on the boards of the Restitution Foundation and the Popular Education Programme (PEP). In these positions, Kyla is interested in exploring how ordinary people can activate constitutional rights to address structural inequality. She holds a BA (Hons) in Law, Politics and Philosophy from Rhodes University and an MPhil in Justice and Transformation from the University of Cape Town (UCT), all with distinction. Her studies were made possible through the consecutive awards of an Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Fellowship

and a Nelson Mandela Rhodes Scholarship. Throughout her studies and in the early stages of her career, Kyla has sustained an interest in journalism, working variously for student publications and as a freelance writer.

A.W. Misbach is a journalist who worked for the now-defunct anti-apartheid newspaper SOUTH in the 1990s and as a parliamentary and political correspondent for the Sowetan. He has also worked for several news outlets in Saudi Arabia as a copy editor. He is currently studying towards a PhD at Stellenbosch University, with a focus on racism, Islamophobia, and socio-economic and political debates in South Africa and the Arab world.

Tata Emmanuel Sunjo lectures in the Department of Geography at the University of Buea, where he has been a faculty member since 2015. He is a Governance and Regional Integration Fellow at the Nkafu Policy Institute with the Denis and Lenora Foretia Foundation in Cameroon. His research interests include climate change, the management and use of natural resources, environmental politics and policy, and natural resources-related conflicts. He has published extensively in academic journals and has participated in a number of international conferences and seminars. Dr. Sunjo is also an Associate Editor with the Journal of Resource and Environmental Management (JOREM) and the African Journal of Social Sciences in Cameroon.

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English Department
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Editor

Prof Ronit Frenkel
thethinker@uj.ac.za
Leila Hall - Assistant Editor
thethinker@uj.ac.za

Design & Art Direction

On The Loose
matt@ontheloose.co.za
Tel:+27 83 302 8969
www.ontheloose.co.za

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