

## **On The Beauty of Rage: A Brief Intellectual History of Pumla Dineo Gqola's Writings on Feminism, Sexual Violence, and Visions of Freedom**

**Room:** TBA

**Date:** Friday @ 1:00pm

### **Conveners:**

Rachel Zellars ([rachel.zellars@mcgill.ca](mailto:rachel.zellars@mcgill.ca)) & Vincenza Mazzeo ([vincenza.mazzeo@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:vincenza.mazzeo@mail.mcgill.ca))

### **Description:**

Through the work of Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola, this reading group seeks to explore the place of the concept of transnational feminism(s) to rethink the limitations of feminism's intellectual history for understanding the lived experiences of Black African women and the impact of intraracial gender based violence in their lives. The group will contemplate the existence of "feminist internationalism" and the conditions upon which this may be possible through South African historical cases of women's organizing. A central question posited by our reading group will ask: How is violence against South African women central to the work of white supremacy, historically and presently, and how does one characterize a "feminism" that is relevant to the lives of South African women? More broadly, this group will investigate how particular articulations of feminism fail to speak to the lives of South African women while paradoxically creating possibilities for social, political, and economic transformation.

For more information regarding readings, please contact the conveners directly or join our Facebook group.

### **Reading Schedule:**

**Week 1** (February 2, 2018): **A Rogue Feminist (Reflecting Rogue): Who is Pumla Dineo Gqola?**

**Discussion Topic:** On Feminist Praxis: Author, Autobiography, and Academic

#### **Readings:**

- Gqola, Pumla Dineo. *Reflecting Rouge: Inside the Mind of a Feminist*. Johannesburg: MFBooks Joburg, 2017. (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Sosibo, Kwanele. A Beautiful Mind Divorced from Self Indulgence. <https://mg.co.za/article/2017-08-11-00-a-beautiful-feminist-mind-divorced-from-self-indulgence>

**Week 2** (February 23, 2018): **Writing African Feminisms**

**Discussion Topic:** Writing Feminist Rage and the Construction of the "Difficult Woman"

#### **Readings:**

- Gqola, Pumla Dineo. *Reflecting Rouge: Inside the Mind of a Feminist*. Johannesburg: MFBooks Joburg, 2017. (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)
- Lewis, Desiree. "African Feminisms." *Agenda* No 50 (2001): 4-11.

Recommended Readings:

- Kolawole, Mary. "Transcending Incongruities: Rethinking Feminisms and the Dynamics of Identity in Africa." *Agenda* No 54 (2002): 92-98.
- What is African Feminism, Actually? <https://www.msafropolitan.com/2017/12/what-is-african-feminism-actually.html>
- The Cry of Winnie Mandela, interview with Njabulo S Ndebele. <https://www.njabulondebele.co.za/work/the-cry-of-winnie-mandela-interview-with-njabulo-s-ndebele/>

**Week 3 (March 23, 2018): Gender Based Violence and Undoing Feminist Work**

Discussion Topic: Connecting Hypocrisy and Brutality with the Spectacle of Masculinity in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Readings:

- Gqola, Pumla Dineo. *Rape: A South African Nightmare*. Johannesburg: MFBooksJoburg, 2015. (Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3)
- Muholi, Zanele. "Thinking Through Lesbian Rape." *Agenda* 61(2011): 56-72.

Recommended Readings:

- Gqola, Pumla Dineo. "Through Zanele Muholi's Eyes: Re-imagining Ways of Seeing Black Lesbians." In *African Sexualities: A Reader*, Tamale, Sylvia, ed, 622-629. United States: Pambazuka Press, 2011.

**Week 4 (April 27, 2018): Rape: The Global Phenomenon of a Crime of Power**

Discussion Topic: Rape as a Language and Logic of Power and Speaking as (Re)Doing Feminist Work

Readings:

- Gqola, Pumla Dineo. *Rape: A South African Nightmare*. Johannesburg: MFBooksJoburg, 2015. (Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8)

Recommended Readings:

- Swarr, Amanda Lock and Richa Nagar. "Dismantling Assumptions: Interrogating Lesbian Struggles for Identity and Survival in India and South Africa." *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society* Vol 29 No. 2 (Winter 2004): 491-516.
- Radio 702 Podcast: Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola on Rape Culture, Patriarchy and Gender Politics in South Africa. <http://www.702.co.za/articles/5366/prof-pumla-dineo-gqola-on-rape-culture-patriarchy-and-gender-politics-in-sa>

**Week 5 (May 4, 2018): A Myriad of Meanings: Feminism(s), Solidarity Movements, and Visions of Freedom**

Discussion Topic/Question: Can transnational feminism create a collective language for mobilization at the level of the global? Is it possible for a form of "feminist internationalism" to be a voice for transformative change without a clear position on empire, capitalism, and history? What does "coauthoring" feminism(s) look like in practice?

Readings:

- Gqola, Pumla Dineo. “Coming Out and Being Proudly Threatening: Feminist Activists and African Academics.” [http://agi.ac.za/sites/agi.ac.za/files/fa\\_1\\_standpoint\\_1.pdf](http://agi.ac.za/sites/agi.ac.za/files/fa_1_standpoint_1.pdf)
- Muptosa, Danai S. “Being/Becoming an Undutiful Daughter: Thinking as a Practice of Freedom.” In *Transforming Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, eds Osman Ruksana and David Hornsby, 37-58. Palgrave Critical University Studies, 2017
- Nagar, Richa. *Muddying the Waters: Coauthoring Feminisms Across Scholarship and Activism*. Springfield: University of Chicago Press, 2014. (Introduction and Chapter 6)