



SAHS



Southern African Historical Society



Currently hosted by the National Heritage & Cultural Studies Centre, University of Fort Hare

Private Bag X1314, Alice, 5700, Tel: +27 (0) 40 602 2277,

Email: Luvuyo Wotshela (President) LWotshela@ufh.ac.za Website: www.sahs.org.za

28 - 30 June 2022

Hosted by the Department of History, and the National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre, University of Fort Hare

Expanding Margins: New and Lingering Questions, and Debates on Southern African Histories

The 28th Biennial Conference of the Southern African Historical Society (SAHS) is running a year later than its usual schedule because of the Covid-19 global pandemic, and, is being hosted at the University of Fort Hare (UFH)'s East London campus. The 2022 SAHS Conferences coincides with the 106th anniversary year of the founding of the UFH. In addition, the UFH will be celebrating in 2022 the 30th anniversary year since it took custodianship of the rich archival material, which the major political organisations involved in the struggle against segregation and apartheid donated to the UFH. In the last 25 years or so, some scholars used this vital collection held at the UFH's National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre (NAHECS) to add to ongoing historiographical revisions, especially onto topics related to broader liberation processes in the Southern African region.

Present-day Southern Africa shares common history, and the colonial governments of the British, the Portuguese and the Germans from the late Nineteenth Century, largely shaped existing geo-political boundaries of the region. Such decisive European imposition in mapping out of what later became the Southern African national states, did not however necessarily denote first-time recording and presentation of this region's past. Nor did it infer immunity against reassessment of current Southern African historiography of conquest, and resultant liberation processes of the Twentieth Century. Even so, the dynamism of people's ideas in the region, their actions towards socioeconomic plights, and their challenges in pursuing forms of social justices have continued to test postcolonial and post-apartheid Southern African states. Likewise, there have been persistent political contests, readjustments of power institutions, albeit, against unending authoritarianism, and declining space for civil society. All of these trials have occurred not only in testing socio-political, but, also under severe natural environments, exhibited through climate and agrarian change, as well as swelling food insecurities. They have also been displayed in shapes of falling basic rights and rising hardships, such as diasporas, homelessness and job losses. Yet in spite of all these challenges, the scope has continued to widen for further historical research, and production of new historical knowledge.

It is thus envisaged that the 28th biennial SAHS conference will address key questions about the prospects and production of history and engage with complex old and new forces in the Southern

