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Nordiska Afrikainstitutet  
The Nordic Africa Institute

## INVITATION

Master students, PhD students and faculty at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research and the Nordic Africa Institute are invited to a seminar series in November/December 2015 on:

### *Forgiveness in the Aftermath of Historical Trauma* with Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, 2015 Claude Ake Professor

*Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is a senior research professor for trauma, forgiveness and reconciliation at the University of the Free State, and former professor of psychology at the University of Cape Town. She served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Human Rights Violations Committee, and since then, her research and public engagement have been concerned with the question of transformation in the aftermath of mass trauma and violence and what leads people to change.*



This seminar considers the possibility of psychological repair after mass trauma in the context of the global trend of dialogue between survivors and perpetrators in the aftermath of mass atrocity. The seminar will draw on stories of remorse and forgiveness and reflect on the last two decades' practices of dealing with the past as exemplified by truth commissions in countries such as South Africa and Rwanda. The aim of the seminar is threefold. Firstly, I will argue that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of South Africa was a unique dialogic space that enabled the emergence of new subjectivities in the encounter between survivors and perpetrators. Secondly, the discussion will draw on the concepts of intersubjectivity and explore how a psychoanalytic perspective might contribute to understanding the processes of trauma testimony and trauma witnessing, and examine the different ways in which acknowledgement and recognition open up transformative possibilities in victims/survivors and perpetrators and/or their descendants. A key element that will be discussed is the aspect of concern and care for the "Other" that is linked to the empathy-remorse-forgiveness cycle in the dialogue between victim and perpetrator. The final segment of the seminar series will examine remorse and its relationship to forgiveness. Contextually rich case study material from my research on forgiveness, as well as video clips from the TRC will provide illustrative examples for the discussion in the final seminar in the series.

The seminars will take place at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Gamla Torget 3, in the Alva Myrdal room (AM) and Lecture Hall 2 (LH 2) at 11.15-12.30 on the following dates and with the following themes:

<b>Seminar I:</b>	Nov. 19 (AM)	<i>Historical Trauma and Memory: Interrupting Cycles of Repetition</i>
<b>Seminar II:</b>	Nov. 26 (LH 2)	<i>Witnessing Trauma and Testimony: Making Public Spaces Intimate</i>
<b>Seminar III:</b>	Dec. 10 (AM)	<i>Remorse: The "Royal Road" to Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>

Please register to the seminar series (please note that it is a non-credit course) by **November 9** to Claude Ake Chair Coordinator: [helena.grusell@pcr.uu.se](mailto:helena.grusell@pcr.uu.se)