

Mendi Centenary Conference Programme, 28-30th March, 2017
Venue: Gallery of the Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town
Tues 28th March

Time	Panel	Notes
9:30-10	Opening performance: Mandla Mbothwe, Warona Seane, and Lulamile Bongo Nikani, “NDABAMNYE no SS Mendi”	
10-11	<p>1. Welcome: Prof. Lungisile Ntsebeza, Director, Centre for African Studies, UCT</p> <p>2. Opening address: Prof. Loretta Feris (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Transformation, UCT)</p> <p>3. Minute of silence</p> <p>4. Fezeka choir, “Ama-Gora e-Mendi” and “Lizalis’ idinga lakho”</p> <p>5. The Rev. Isaac Williams Wauchope Dyobha and the Mendi: Natalia Sifuba, descendant of Rev. Wauchope</p>	
11:30-1	<p>Artists’ Roundtable</p> <p>Chair: Nkululeko Mabandla</p> <p>Buhlebezwe Siwani, Mandla Mbothwe, Warona Seane, Hilary Graham</p>	
1-2 Lunch		
2-3:30	<p>Varying contexts/ contextualizing the Mendi</p> <p>Chair: Dr June Bam Hutchison</p> <p>1. Gugulethu Neo Bodibe, “Masetlapelo Lefatsheng! Masetlapelo lewatleng? Kamogo lefatshe, Mendi le Nna!” (Tragedy on land! tragedy at sea? Land dispossession, the Mendi and Me!)*</p> <p>2. Prof. Hlonipha Mokoena (Wits), “Putting on the Uniform”</p> <p>3. Prof. Michele Barrett (Queen Mary, University of London), “Putting the British <i>Mendi</i> memorial in context: the War Graves Commission and the dehumanisation of Africans who died in WW1”</p> <p>4. Dr. Khwezi Mkhize (UCT), “Wauchope and early twentieth century textual culture” (title tbc)</p>	*The paper by Gugulethu Neo Bodibe will be presented in seTswana, with a written English translation available on request.
4-5	<p>Mendi film-makers’ roundtable</p> <p>Chair: Dr Lucy Graham</p> <p>Marion Edmunds, Zwai Mgijima, Wendy Morris</p>	
5-6	<p>Poetry:</p> <p>Chair: Kerusha Govender</p> <p>- New poem on the Mendi by Koleka Putuma</p> <p>- Poems from <i>Mendi</i> (1994), read by Nkululeko Somhlahlo, Cathal Lagan, and Brian Walter.</p> <p>- Performance of Lindiwe Mabuza’s poem, “SS Mendi: A Lament” (2007).*</p>	*Performed by students from Vista Nova High School, directed by Lauren Bates.

Wednesday 29th March

Time	Panel	Notes
10-11:30	<p>Commemoration Chair: Natalia Sifuba</p> <p>1. Sarah-Jane Walton (UCT alumni), “Mendi: Lost Records and Meaningful Commemoration?”</p> <p>2. Andrew Martin (NELM), “Preservation for Commemoration”</p> <p>4. Jacques de Vries (descendent of Mendi survivor), “The Last Resting Place of the S.S. Mendi Men – Bodies of Literature.”</p>	
12-1	<p>Recruitment: Comparative Perspectives Chair: Dr June Bam Hutchison</p> <p>1. Prof. Albert Grundlingh (Stellenbosch), “‘You have to go over the water’: Recruitment for the SANLC during the First World War”</p> <p>2. Dr. Santanu Das (Kings College, London), “Sonorous Fields: Recruitment, recitative and resistance in the Punjab”</p>	
1-2 Lunch	Booksale – with Clarke’s Books	
2-3	<p>Colonial Genocide and the World Wars Chair: Dr Hugh Macmillan</p> <p>1. Vincent Moloji, the making of <i>Skulls of My People</i> (award-winning film about the Nama/Herero genocide).</p> <p>2. “Delayed Replays”*, performance installation by Thando Mangcu, Sizwesandile Mnisi and Sihle Mnqwazana.</p>	*“Delayed Replays” is a surrealist installation art performance that explores the colonial history of Namibia, and the Nama/Herero genocide, in relation to the Mendi story, and the two World Wars.
3:30-5	<p>Literature and Drama Chair: Thando Mangcu</p> <p>1. Fred Khumalo, “<i>Dancing the Death Drill</i>”</p> <p>2. Dr. Gerhard Genis (UP), “‘Their souls are not sitting well in the English channel’: Poetry on the Mendi, 1917-present”</p> <p>3. Marike Beyers (NELM), “Literary Works on the Mendi”</p> <p>4. Sanjin Muftic (UCT and City Varsity), “WWI, Youth and Media Artifacts”</p>	
5-6	Screening of <i>Troopship Tragedy</i>	

Thursday 30th March

Time	Panel	Notes
10-11	<p>Stories of the Ship Chair: Dr Santanu Das</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Gribble (SAHRA), “The Wreck of the Mendi: A forgotten shipwreck site and its multiple meanings” 2. Kathy Munro (WITS), “The SS Mendi as a WW1 shipping disaster: Safety and rescue at sea in war time” 3. Dr Hugh Macmillan (Oxford), “The Story of a Ship: The Mendi, Anti-Imperialism and Pan-Africanism” 	
11:30-1pm	<p>Legacy, Heritage, Memory Chair: Prof. Michele Barrett</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Sifiso Ndlovu (SADET), “The Political Legacy and Symbolism of the SS Mendi disaster” 2. Mike Bosazza (Naval Heritage Trust), “How I found the Mendi story” 3. Sihle Shona Mngwazana (UCT), “Mendi: Memory and Resilience Today” 4. Lt Cdr Anthony-Glenn von Zeil (UCT), “The Mendi Memorial at UCT” 	
1-2 Lunch		
2-3	<p>The Mendi and Struggle History Chair: Nkululeko Mabandla</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sandi Sijake and Stanley Manong, with Hugh Macmillan, “The Mendi and MK” 2. Andile M-Afrika, “The Mendi and Biko” 3. Sive Shosha (UWC), “The Mendi and Fees Must Fall” 	
3:30-5	<p>Black Troops and WW2 Chair: Dr Lucy Graham</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Ntabeni (NUL), “The Other Mendi: The Erinpura” 2. Karen Horn (Stellenbosch), “The ‘Non-European’ Army Service in World War Two” 3. Vincent Moloï and Marilyn Honikman, “The Story of Job Maseko” 	
5:30pm	<p>Launch of Fred Khumalo’s <i>Dancing the Death Drill</i>, at The Book Lounge, 71 Roeland Street, Cape Town</p>	