

Invitation Book launch

29 November 2022



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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Faculty of Humanities

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Professor Sunil Maharaj, Vice-Principal: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education and Professor Vasu Reddy, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities cordially invites you to the launch of the book *Foucault and Governmentality. Living to Work in the Age of Control* by Professor Benda Hofmeyr, Department of Philosophy, University of Pretoria.

The launch seeks to provide some insight into and elicit discussion about the arguments developed in *Foucault and Governmentality. Living to Work in the Age of Control* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022). The book seeks a critical understanding of what we are today in relation to our present, understood as the globalising neoliberal governmentality in which life is reduced to constant work under conditions of stealth control. The focus falls on knowledge workers subject to mechanisms of control and constant surveillance in neoliberal networked societies. To understand the way in which we are governed by mechanisms of control, Hofmeyr draws on Foucault's analyses of neoliberal governmentality in his Collège de France lectures of the late 70s. By drawing on the ancient notion of thumos, she furthermore explores the 'culture', 'ethos' or 'spiritedness' of work under and in relation to conditions of control that serve to incite knowledge workers willingly to work all the time. It would appear that neoliberal economic theory has found a way to tap into this gratifying psychic spiritedness to generate the present competitive entrepreneurial spirit, which is the very fuel that sustains neoliberal politico-economic expansion.

Date: Tuesday, 29 November 2022
Time: 10:00 – 14:30
Venue: Javett Art Centre Auditorium, Hatfield South Campus, University of Pretoria
GPS: 25°45'23.6"S 28°13'46.1"E
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register for this event. Please complete the form on or before 25 November 2022.
Enquiries: Email Mr Martin Manganye at martin.manganye@up.ac.za

* Lino prints by UP Art students will be on display and for sale at the launch

PROGRAMME

10h00: Formal opening by Prof Vasu Reddy, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
10h15 -11h00: Prof Benda Hofmeyr introduces her book
11h00 -11h30: Response by Prof Bert Olivier, Extraordinary Professor, University of the Free State
11h30-12h00: Response by Prof Karel Stanz, Department of Human Resource Management, University of Pretoria
12h00-12h30: Discussion moderated by Prof Christo Lombaard, Head of the Department of Practical Theology and Mission Studies
12h30-13h30: Lunch
13h30-14h30: Guided tour of the Javett Art Centre

SPEAKERS



Benda Hofmeyr is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pretoria. Her research interests fall within the broad ambit of contemporary Continental philosophy (especially thinkers following in the wake of Martin Heidegger with emphasis on post-structuralism and phenomenology) with an enduring ethico-political awareness and critical responsiveness to the demands of the present. She also has a keen interest in the entanglement of European and non-Western, especially post-colonial African philosophy and the possibility of a dialogue across these divergent yet fundamentally intertwined traditions of thought. For more information on her research and publications, visit www.bendahofmeyr.com.



Bert Olivier's principal position is that of Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the University of the Free State, South Africa. He has published academic articles and books across a wide variety of disciplines, including philosophy, art theory, architecture, literature, psychoanalytic theory, cinema, communication studies and social theory. Bert received the South African Stals Prize for Philosophy in 2004, and a Distinguished Professorship from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2012. He is also an NRF- rated researcher, and has written extensively in popular media on philosophical, cultural and socio-political issues.



Karel Stanz is Professor and former Head of the Department of Human Resource Management at the University of Pretoria and at the University of Johannesburg. He is a seasoned academic and academic leader and administrator. He is a passionate servant leader dedicated to serving "all in our world", a strategic-thinking, proactive people management professional. He enjoys serving as a catalyst and engages all in the implementation of new and innovative solutions to ensure future fitness.

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