

# Second call for papers

for the 2019  
February Lectures  
conference



## Queer Visualities: African Perspectives, Other Perspectives

### To be held on

28 February & 01 March 2019  
on the Potchefstroom campus of NWU.

### Contact Information

Wemar Strydom & Chantelle Gray van Heerden  
februarylectures@gmail.com

### Keynote by Mel Y. Chen, featured artist Q&A

with Banele Khoza and world debut of visual  
work by Eben Venter.

### Proposal deadline

31 September 2018

# Queer Visualities:

## African Perspectives, Other Perspectives

The recent surge in scholarship on queer African visibility has brought into sharp focus the queer somapolitics of body-technics-visibility-technology assemblages. In this frame, queer visibility can be understood as a new present-future philosophical and ethico-political horizon which views the body, visibility and technology as coimbricated and mutually interdependent in contemporary society.

Furthermore, as Mel Y. Chen (2016, 237) argues, 'temporality scholarship has established [that] time plays out multiply and unsteadily', thus disrupting notions that pre-coloniality, coloniality and decoloniality are discreet. Such views, at any rate, blind us to the many and varied material-cultural entanglements spread across multiple temporal rhythms. A queer visibility, on the other hand, calls for richer, more complex understandings of temporality and subjectivity that refuse linear, flat explanations.

How, then, are we to think about corporeality, queer visibility and technology without negating the problematics of the (colonial) gaze and spectatorial politics? Furthermore, what happens when historically excluded bodies enter visibility? What kinds of analyses are needed to disrupt linear and Eurocentric and able-ist conceptions of visualised modernity? What are the power operations on/with/through bodies, visibility and technologies and how do these converge, align or negate the body politic? **In essence, what happens when 'queer', 'visibility', and 'African' enter the same sentence?**

We invite 350-word proposals for papers or panel discussions on the relation between body, visibility, and technology outlined above.

Possible avenues to explore include, but are not limited to, Black Panther, The Wound/Inxeba, Kwezi, Bittercomix, Wanuri Kahiu, Dean Hutton, Athi-Patra Ruga, Zanele Muholi, Nicholas Hlobo, Lauren Beukes, Tiger Maremela, and Banele Khoza.

We also encourage theoretical considerations of African queer theory. Proposals can be sent to Chantelle Gray van Heerden and Wemar Strydom at [februarylectures@gmail.com](mailto:februarylectures@gmail.com) by 31 September 2018.

---

The conference will be held on 28 February and 01 March 2019 on the Potchefstroom campus of the NWU.

**Keynote by Mel Y. Chen, featured artist Q&A with Banele Khoza and world debut of visual work by Eben Venter.**

Conference registration includes access to a shuttle service between Potchefstroom and Johannesburg/Pretoria.

See [www.februarylectures.co.za](http://www.februarylectures.co.za) for registration info.

