



NAMES SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015 ISSUE



## PRESIDENTIAL DESK

The year 2015 started with promises for a brighter future. Our first Executive meeting, after the Victoria Falls conference (2014) organised by our colleagues at Great Zimbabwe University, gave birth to this newsletter. The two members of the NSSA Executive, who were called to shoulder this responsibility, have not disappointed. It is with much gratitude that I pen this brief note to you because most Executive members continue to render support amidst their tight schedules. This is greatly appreciated and I thank them sincerely.

May I announce that the 2016 NSSA conference is to be organized at the University of the Free State (UFS), Bloemfontein. May 2016 be a year of prosperity and good health for you and your loved ones.

**Nhlanhla Mathonsi**

## EDITORIAL NOTE

It is one of those first times when something happens and this time it is the NSSA newsletter happening for the first time in the history of the organisation. In that regard it is our great pleasure to present the first issue of the society's newsletter, which, it is hoped, will improve interaction between members, keeping them in constant contact and communication.

Like the Christian biblical Paul we feel we are writing our first letter to the Onomasticians of Southern Africa. It is our hope that you will treasure the newsletter and put it ahead of other news platforms because it is yours. It is also our hope that you will feel free to send us information that will be the lifeblood of the newsletter. Since this is the first edition, we anticipate that we will grow from edition to edition.

*Continues on page 2*



<http://namesociety.za.org/>





## EDITORIAL NOTE (CONTINUES)

### Aim

The aim of the newsletter is to create a platform for members to share views and opinions, and contribute to the development of onomastics in Southern Africa and indeed the world over.

### Content

For all future issues we will welcome all issues relating to onomastics and membership of the NSSA; be it comments, complaint, content or contribution. The newsletter is an onomastics publication that does not seek to promote or disadvantage any political, social, religious and otherwise ideas and all contributions should be onomastic and or relating to members of the association.

Members may also post names of babies, pets, organisations etc. Any members intending to make such contributions to the newsletter should, however, get necessary clearance from concerned parties as the editorial team will not be responsible for the verifications although we may seek clearance if we suspect infringement to third parties' rights.

For future issues news bits should be submitted to [namesocietynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:namesocietynewsletter@gmail.com)

The current newsletter has the following columns:

**Presidential desk** – contains the President's address

**Executive corner** – announcements from members of the Executive Board

**Conferences Reports and Calls**

It is our hope that future issues may include more columns such as the following:

**Feedback column** – here all members are welcome to ask questions and responses will be featured here too. It is here that questions on the meanings and etymologies of some names are asked and all shall be answered by corresponding members.

**News** – here unlike the feedback people post what is onomastically news worthy. Short blurbs of up to 500 words can be posted to the editors on issues pertaining to names in your areas, name news include name changes, name workshops, the name you have given to your child and why you chose it, brand names trending on the media, new names, laws on names, controversies that include names etc.

**Upcoming events** – here all onomastics related conferences and workshops are announced and calls are made.

**Members' corner** – here members post on personal and professional issues. Issues like personal achievements, graduations, weddings, births are welcome here. The section also covers notices on bereavement and any loss.

**Feature publication** – the editors will choose an onomastics publication and feature it, this is not reproducing but giving and abstract and reference and a justification for featuring.

**Curriculum innovation** – here onomastics teachers share notes on the teaching of onomastics and how it can be improved.

Let us take this opportunity to call for items for our next issue, and promise you that the editorial team is working hard to raise the standard of the newsletter beyond the heights of Bona and You Magazines.

To encourage membership and ownership we are calling for volunteer reporters from all nations in Southern Africa. If interested please get in touch with us.

Once again welcome to the NSSA newsletter, be proud to be part of the names initiative. Let the news feed keep rolling in and we will dish it professionally and onomastically to the pleasure of all names magicians out there. A toss 'As to the NSSA newsletter'

**Sambulo Ndlovu & Tendai Mangena**  
(Newsletter Editors)

## NSSA EXECUTIVE IN BIOS & PHOTOS



### Professor Nhlanhla N. Mathonsi (President)

Nhlanhla Mathonsi is Associate Professor in the School of Arts, College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, 4041, South Africa. Nhlanhla has read and published papers in Semantics, Morpho-Syntax, Onomastics, lexicography and Literature, and has developed a further research interest in student writing, issues of 'ownership' (space, culture, language, etc.) and transformation.



### Dr Tendai Mangena (Vice President)

Tendai Mangena lectures literary courses in the Department of English and Media Studies of Great Zimbabwe University. She holds a PhD in literary studies from Leiden University and has published papers in peer-reviewed journals on Zimbabwean literature and cultures. She has been awarded a two-year (2016 – 2018) Georg Forster Postdoctoral Fellowship tenable at the University of Bremen in Germany.

# NSSA EXECUTIVE IN BIOS & PHOTOS



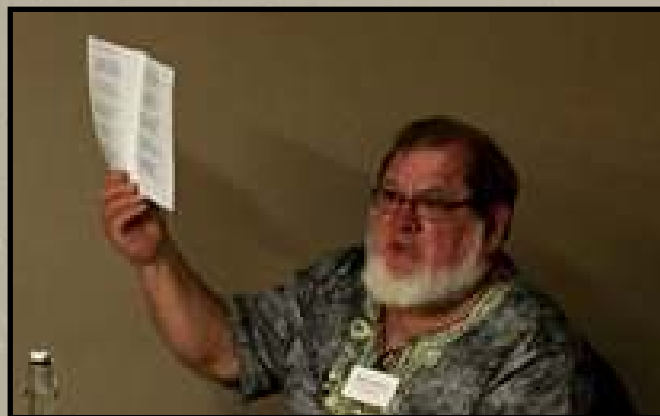
## **Prof Livingstone Makondo (Executive Secretary)**

Livingstone Makondo has published in the following areas; Anthroponomastics, Onomastics, Teacher development and Communication among others. He is currently an Educational Development Practitioner in the Centre for excellence in Learning and Teaching responsible for the Midlands Campuses of the Durban University of Technology.



## **Dr Maleshoane Rapeane-Mathonsi (Treasurer)**

Maleshoane Rapeane-Mathonsi is a Research Coordinator in the Faculty of Arts and Design, Durban University of Technology. She holds a PhD in Sociolinguistics; from the University of Cape Town. Dr Rapeane-Mathonsi's research interests include language use, especially studies on the linguistic landscape of Southern African cities, and language differentiation and gender. She has co-published a book, and articles on language and orality in peer-reviewed journals, some of which were co-authored with her postgraduate students. She has served, and continues to be, on editorial boards of some of the journals in her field. She has also supervised and externalised postgraduate theses, and, as an experienced translator, has translated many documents, including children's books, over the years. She was involved in a data-gathering project for the first Lesotho Sign Language Dictionary, published in 2012 under the auspices of the National University of Lesotho. Her current research projects include Sign Language and the language of social media.



## **Professor Adrian Koopman (Nomina Africana Editor)**

Adrian Koopman is a Professor Emeritus of the University of KwaZulu Natal. He retired in 2012 after 37 years of teaching in isiZulu Studies. He is the immediate-past President of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA). He is the author of 2002 Zulu Names and of over 50 academic articles, mostly on onomastics topics.



## **Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa (Nomina Africana Editorial Secretary)**

She is a Dean of Teaching and Learning in the College of Humanities at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She holds the following qualifications. She has 18 years' experience in academia. She is the former Acting Deputy Dean of the Undergraduate Studies in the faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences. She is the former Head of the School of isiZulu Studies (2005-2007). She is the author of a scholarly book entitled "Ukuhlelwa Kolimi" translated as language planning. She is one of the guest editors of two special issues of Alternation Journal Special Edition No 13 2014 with the theme African Languages in Africa's Dispensation of Freedom and Democracy and Alternation Vol.17, 1 2010 with the theme: Multilingualism for access, language development and language intellectualisation. She is the member of the Board of Directors of the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS). She is the editorial Secretary of Nomina Africana Journal. She is an executive member of International Council on Indigenous Place Names (ICIPN).



## NSSA EXECUTIVE IN BIOS & PHOTOS



### **Professor Jako Olivier (website manager)**

Jako Olivier is an associate professor at the School of Human and Social Sciences for Education at the North-West University (Potchefstroom campus). He was involved in teaching information technology and languages at schools in the United Kingdom and South Africa prior to joining the NWU as a lecturer in 2010. Currently Jako serves on the executive committees of the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa as well as the Names Society of Southern Africa. His research interests include sociolinguistics, multilingualism in education, blended and e-learning and language instruction as well as online naming conventions.



### **Mr Sambulo Ndlovu (Committee Member)**

Sambulo Ndlovu is a lecturer in orature and language in the Department of African Languages and Literature at Great Zimbabwe University, in Zimbabwe. He is a holder of a Master's degree in African languages and literature from the University of Zimbabwe, and a PhD candidate in linguistics with the University of Cape Town. His research interests are sociolinguistics and oral literature; he has published and presented papers in Zimbabwe and internationally on the two areas. He is the Zimbabwe country representative in the African urban and youth languages programme.



### **Mr Liketso Dube (Committee Member)**

Mr Liketso Dube is a lecturer at Great Zimbabwe University. He teaches IsiNdebele courses in the Curriculum Studies Department under the Faculty of Education. His research interests are in language policy, indigenous languages promotion, language rights, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Onomastics and IsiNdebele/IsiZulu literature and culture. He is a holder of a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Arts, a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in African Languages and Culture and a Diploma in Education.



### **Dr Elias Mabuza (Committee Member)**



## CONFERENCE REPORTS

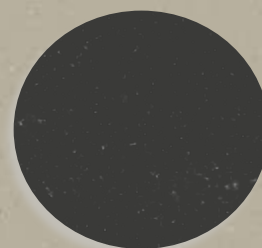


*REPORT FROM THE CLARENS  
TOPONOMASTICS CONFERENCE 2015  
(BY CHRISMI-RINDA LOTH  
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE)*

The Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment's (ULFE) Third Symposium on Place Names was organised in collaboration with the IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy this year, making it an international event. This commission is comprised of representatives from the International Geographical Union and the International Cartographic Association, the largest professional, non-governmental organisations focusing on the development of geography. Coinciding with the Heritage Day celebrations in South Africa, the theme of this symposium, which was hosted in Clarens on 16 and 17 September 2015, was "Place names, diversity and heritage". Delegates from all over South Africa, as well as Brazil, the USA, Austria, Italy and Slovenia attended. Prof. Peter Raper, Professor Extraordinaire in Linguistics and Research Fellow at the ULFE, delivered the keynote address. At the conference dinner, delegates were treated to a guest lecture by Mr Trueman Kubheka, head of the South African Geographical Names Unit.

Selected reworked papers from the symposium will be published as articles in the accredited national journal, *Nomina Africana*. Furthermore, it has been decided at the symposium to establish an international training consortium to present postgraduate toponymy courses approved by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The participating institutions will be the University of the Free State, South Africa (represented by Profs Peter Raper and Theodorus du Plessis); the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Prof Paulo Menezes); the Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy (Prof Cosimo Palagiano); and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria (Prof Peter Jordan).

**A Group Photo of the Clarens 2015 conference delegates**



*REPORT FROM ICONN 3*

ICONN 3 was held under the theme "Name and Naming: Conventional/Unconventional in Onomastics in Baia Mare, Romania from 1 - 3 September. Of the many delegates from the various parts of the world who attended and presented papers at the conference, three are subscribed Names Society of Southern African Society (NSSA). Nobuhle Hlongwa of University of KwaZulu Natal (the current *Nomina Africana* Editorial secretary) attended the conference and presented to papers: "A feminist approach to the naming of women in the bible" and "The role of indigenous place names in preserving cultural heritage and African indigenous knowledge systems in KwaZulu Natal".

Sambulo Ndlovu (one of the current NSSA committee members) and Tendai Mangena (the current NSSA vice President), both of Great Zimbabwe University had their papers "Indigenous knowledge for making meat edible and / inedible: Selected Zimbabwean cases" and "Use of historical names in selected Zimbabwean texts", presented in absentia





# FROM THE DESK OF THE NOMINA AFRICANA EDITOR (ADRIAN KOOPMAN)

*Nomina Africana* issue 29(1&2) for 2015 has gone to print and is expected to be out before the end of the year. We have had to combine two numbers in one issue as there were insufficient article available to bring out *Nomina Africana* 29(1) with the cover date April 2015. *Nomina Africana* 30(1) for April 2016 has been reserved for papers presented at the Toponymy Symposium held in Clarens, Free State, in September 2015, and will be guest-edited by Dr Lucie Möller. Editorial Secretary Prof Nobuhle Hlongwa says that she currently has a number of manuscripts in the review process, and hopefully these will be accepted by reviewers and will make a solid issue of *Nomina Africana* 30(2) for November 2016.

We encourage all members of the Names Society of Southern Africa to submit manuscripts for publication to the Editorial Secretary (NOT to the Editor!) and particularly if they have already presented a paper at a recent NSSA Congress. While it is not necessary for an article to have been previously presented as a paper at a conference in order to submit it to *Nomina Africana*, this is usually a sound idea as it provides an excellent opportunity for feedback from peers and particularly those working in that specific area.

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION (OLIVER NYAMBI)

The Postcolonial Condition of Names and Naming Practices in Southern Africa (Eds., Dr Oliver Nyambi, Dr Tendai Mangena & Prof Charles Pfukwa, forthcoming with Cambridge Scholars Publishers, Uk). A total of 21 Chapters by onomasticians from six SADC countries grapple with names and naming practices in the context of change in the sub-region.

Prefaced by Prof Bertie Neethling, the book has already received thumbs up from renowned onomasticians across the globe. Look out for this exciting seminal text.



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### First call for papers

19<sup>th</sup> NSSA International Conference:  
*Symbolism and Instrumentality in Naming*

Organised by Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment and the NSSA University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa

The Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) and the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment at the University of the Free State cordially invite proposals for the next bi-annual international conference.

**Date:** 20–22 September 2016

**Venue:** CR Swart Building, UFS main campus, Bloemfontein, South Africa

**Conference page:**

<http://conferences.ufs.ac.za/default.aspx?DCODE=735>

The naming of objects and the use of names is part of the daily routine of humanity. The study of names can fall within any discipline (for example linguistics, history, geography) and there is a variety of themes within the study of names, naming and naming systems.

The focus of this conference is on the symbolism and instrumentality in naming. Symbolism, as coined by poet Paul Verlaine in 1885 (French: *symboliste*) refers to the practice of representing things with symbols. What role does this play in the naming of objects and what instruments are used to name?

Abstracts (300–500 words) in the following (but not limited to) categories of research:

- Anthroponyms (i.e. personal names; names in religion; nicknames, etc.)
- Geographical Names (i.e. toponyms and place names)
- Names in history
- Literary onomastics (the use of names in literature)
- Brand names
- Politics of naming in a public sphere

### Scientific council and paper selection committee

Theodorus du Plessis (RSA): Director, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, University of the Free State

Adrian Koopman (RSA): University of KwaZulu-Natal  
Bertie Neethling (RSA): University of the Western Cape

Eventhough Ndlovu (RSA): Research Fellow, University of the Free State  
Johan Lubbe (RSA): Research Fellow, University of the Free State  
Johan Moll (RSA): Research Fellow, University of the Free State

Lucie Möller (RSA): Research Fellow, University of the Free State  
Peter Raper (RSA): Research Fellow, University of the Free State

**Keynotes:** To be confirmed

### Important dates:

- December 2015 First call for papers
- February 2016 Second call for papers
- 1 March 2016 Registrations and abstract submissions open
- 30 June 2016 Deadline for submission of abstracts
- 15 July 2016 Early Bird registrations close
- 14 August 2016 Registrations close

**Language of the symposium:** English

### Conference fees

	Academic	Student
Early bird	2 250	1 000
Standard	2 750	2 000

### Conference proceedings

There will be no conference proceedings *per se*. Authors are invited to submit their papers to *Nomina Africa*, accredited journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa.

### Queries

Please contact the organisational committee with any queries: [kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za](mailto:kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za)

