

## **Feminism – a global conversation**

*Diverse feminist authors discuss literary spaces and writing*

*For immediate release*

**Johannesburg, South Africa (01 August 2018)** – Just one of the many highlights on the programme for this year's South African Book Fair will be a panel discussion with the intriguing title of *Feminism – a global conversation*. The session, which will take place between 14:30 and 15:30 on Saturday, 8 September at Johannesburg's Newtown Precinct, will feature authors Malebo Sephodi, B. Camminga, Anna Dahlqvist and Melanie Judge.

This session will discuss diverse literary spaces and writing, particularly zooming in on “the expression of who I am. I determine and define its boundaries.”

Each of the panellists is an activist who brings a different – and deeply engaging – perspective to the table.

Malebo Sephodi is a development worker and social commentator on development, identity and gender issues. She is also the author of the outspoken memoir, *Miss Behave*, which challenges society's beliefs about what it means to be a woman and, above all, an obedient woman. Tired of everyone else having a say about who and what she should be, Malebo renounced social expectations and set out to describe her journey towards open, creative, empowering misbehaviour. As part of this journey, she has established Lady Leader on Facebook, a community platform that provides the opportunity for women to engage and simply to be.

Anna Dahlqvist, who lives in Sweden, is a journalist specialising in women's and girls' rights. She is editor-in-chief of Ottar magazine and the author of several books on women's issues. Her ground-breaking book, *It's Only Blood: Shattering the Taboo of Menstruation* sets out to explore not only the persistent taboos about the subject, but also how those taboos often have grave consequences for women and girls in countries around the world.

Melanie Judge is a queer and feminist activist and an Adjunct Associate Professor and research associate at the Centre for Law and Society in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town. Her books include *Blackwashing Homophobia: Violence and the Politics of Sexuality, Gender and Race*, which flings open the door on the hate crimes directed against queer South Africans and explores, amongst other things, the lived experience of lesbians.

B Camminga (\*they) joined the African Centre for Migration & Society as a Postdoctoral Researcher in 2018. Their previous work tracked the conceptual journeying of the term ‘transgender’ from the Global North along with the physically embodied journeying of transgender asylum seekers from countries within Africa to South Africa and considered the interrelationships between the two. Their research interests include rights, migration, asylum and diaspora as they relate to transgender people from the African continent; the bureaucratization of gender in relation to transgender bodies and asylum regimes globally; possibilities for mobility and migration of transgender identified people from, across and within the African region and the history of ‘trans phenomena’ in South Africa.

The session forms part of an exciting line-up that has more to offer booklovers and thinkers than ever before. The full programme for the 2018 South African Book Fair, which is the final event on the National Book Week calendar, can be accessed at [www.southafricanbookfair.co.za](http://www.southafricanbookfair.co.za). Booking is essential and tickets for all sessions are available through WebTickets at <http://bit.ly/SABFtix>.

The Book Fair, which will run from 7 to 9 September, will also feature a dedicated schools programme, a storytelling festival, , an exhibition of all of the very latest titles published in South Africa, a number of philosophy and poetry café events and loads of places to rest up and get something good to eat and drink between sessions.

The South African Book Fair (SABF) is presented by the South African Book Development Council, in proud association with the Fibre, Processing and Manufacturing SETA (FP&M).

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Released on behalf of the South African Book Fair by OnPoint PR (Johannesburg).

**For further information about the South African Book Fair, please visit:**

Web site: [www.southafricanbookfair.co.za](http://www.southafricanbookfair.co.za)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SouthAfricanBookFair](https://www.facebook.com/SouthAfricanBookFair)

Twitter: @SABookFair

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**About the South African Book Fair**

The South African Book Fair (SABF) is held under the auspices of the South African Book Development Council (SABDC) and is the culminating event of the annual National Book Week. Comprising a dedicated children's day, a book exhibition, a literary festival, a dedicated B2B section and a demo library set up by Johannesburg Public Libraries, it provides a unique opportunity for engagement with writers, publishers and thought leaders, as well as an excellent platform for trade and promotion.

The SABF aims to:

- Engage children of all ages in the joy of reading;
- Present a lively and engaging literary festival;
- Provide a platform for untold stories to be told;
- Facilitate robust engagement on a range of topical issues;
- Showcase books, publishers, authors, booksellers and related industries;
- Forge and promote partnerships across the book publishing and bookselling industries, both locally and throughout Africa;
- Provide a channel for SMME development; and
- Facilitate skills and enterprise development across the entire book industry value chain.

**About the South African Book Development Council**

The South African Book Development Council (SABDC), formerly known as the Print Industries Cluster Council (PICC), is the representative body for the South African book publishing industry. Its members include all key stakeholders in the book publishing and bookselling value chain. Further information about the Council and its work is available at <http://sabookcouncil.co.za>.