In his talk, Dr. Langa will discuss the use of photo-narrative as a research tool for researching young masculinities in the post-apartheid South Africa. The photo-narrative method proved useful in allowing boys to represent multifaceted aspects of themselves and their lives and also seemed to highlight both individualized and subjective aspects well as dominant or normative aspects of masculinity, as socially and imaginatively represented. In talking about their photos, it is clear that the construction of young township masculinities in South Africa is characterized by feelings of ambivalence, hesitation and contradiction. Boys in this study seemed to simultaneously comply with and oppose hegemonic norms of masculinity in the narrative images. Boys’ photo-narratives reveal that negotiating alternative voices of young township masculinities is fraught with emotional costs and a sacrifice, which is an aspect that many masculinity studies tend to ignore and overlook.

Dr. Malose Langa is a Psychology Senior Lecturer in the School of Community and Human Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Dr. Langa also works at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) as an Associate Senior Researcher where he has been involved in various research projects over the last ten years. Some of the research projects included his work with juvenile offenders, ex-combatants, causes of violent crime and community protests in South Africa. Reports of all these research projects are available on the CSVR website.

His research interests include risk-taking behaviors amongst the youth and their role in politics, trauma of collective violence and the psychology of men (masculinity) in post-apartheid South Africa. His Ph.D. topic was focused on exploring multiple voices of masculinity amongst adolescent boys in Alexandra Township, South Africa.

Dr. Langa has published book chapters and journal articles on violent crime, substance abuse, problems facing former combatants and masculinity. Dr. Langa is a P1-rated Researcher by the National Research Fund (NRF) and sits on the Board of the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA), Psychology Division.

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