



**VAAL UNIVERSITY  
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# **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRANSFORMATION (SJT) DECOLONISATION WORKSHOP**

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## **TOPIC**

### **Thina Sizwe... The Phenomenology of the Cry: Dislocation and Dismemberment**

#### **ABSTRACT**

This paper theorises this moment in the decolonial conversation using struggle song 'Thina Sizwe' as a decolonial lens. Through meditative songs like 'Thina Sizwe', the oppressed have historically not only protested their dislocation and dismemberment, but they have identified its cause in ways that clearly locate their site of struggle. This paper begins by historicising the ontological crimes that relegated the oppressed to the zone of non-being, a positionality that enabled and justified epistemic injustices. 'Thina Sizwe' is a meditative cry (isikhalo) that situates African people as a 'people with problems' and not a problem in and of themselves. This decolonial moment is justified in its quest for the re-remembering of the dismembered.

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr Vuyolwethu Seti-Sonamzi is a lecturer and researcher in the field of Communication Studies. Her research interests centre on the inclusion of discourses of Blackness in Communication Studies, including but not limited to Bosadi/womanist theory, decolonial theory, media racism, inter-generational colonial-apartheid trauma.

Dr Seti-Sonamzi is also interested in the interrogation of research methodologies from the positionality of the oppressed.

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#### **DATE:**

26 May 2026

#### **TIME:**

10:00-13:00

#### **VENUE:**

Desmond Tutu Great Hall  
Foyer

