Understanding Black Students Experiences at UCT

Join us in a discussion that presents an intimate portrait of the many ways in which South African students experience university, and the centrality of race and geography in their quest for education and ultimately acceptance. The book, **STUDYING WHILE BLACK**, is the outcome of a longitudinal study conducted between 2013 and 2017 that tracked 80 students from 8 diverse universities in South Africa and documented their experiences. A 45-minute documentary accompanies this study entitled ‘Ready or not! Black students’ experiences of South African universities’ which the authors of the book will show a part of.

The book **STUDYING WHILE BLACK** brings to the forefront the experiences of black students at UCT. There is a wealth of information that documents racism and the student experience within higher education. For instance, at UCT, the results of the South African Survey of Student Engagement (SASSE), and the findings shared in this book, help us to better understand students’ experiences at UCT. Using these findings, we are invited to respond to our student’s needs by asking ourselves, ‘**What can we improve, in the structures we oversee and the systems that we implement at UCT?**’

Utilizing the methodology of the Creative Change Laboratory, we are invited to co-construct the academe to become a more responsive educational environment for our students.

**Who should attend?**
Students, professional and administrative staff, academics,

**6 June 2019**
Center for African Studies Gallery: 09h00-15h00

1. **Introduction**
DVC Transformation: Professor Loretta Feris

2. **Documentary Screening**
Ready or Not! Black Students’ Experiences of South African Universities
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFcouu8ICfk

3. ‘**STUDYING WHILE BLACK**: Key recommendations for UCT: Presentation and Discussion facilitated by: Dr Alude Mahali and Professor Sharlene Swartz

4. **Building beyond racism: Gabriel Hoosain Khan and Creative Change Laboratory collaborators**
In a world defined by systemic violence and marginalization, new solutions are needed. This interactive activity with use creative methods to imagine, design and build alternatives (structures and processes) to racism. The exercise will use a mix of play, expression and design-thinking to initiate the development of prototype responses to systemic racism.

**RSVP:** Cheryl.vallay@uct.ac.za by 3 June 2019 at 10h00