

Thought for Food Seminar Series



Traditional foodways of the Amadiba: A struggle for indigenous food sovereignty in Mpondoland, South Africa

SINEGUGU ZUKULU

Abstract: We argue that an "actually existing alternative" to the industrial food system can be found in the Amadiba community in South Africa. Like other indigenous food systems, Amadiba traditional foodways are underpinned by principles such as interconnection, sacredness, gratitude, abundance and collectivism, rather than growth or profit. The Amadiba community has struggled to protect the land and sea upon which their foodways depend, in the face of attempts by the South African government and international corporations to impose 'development' projects. This indigenous food sovereignty struggle highlights the principles-based Amadiba food system as a model for prioritising social and ecological needs.

Wed, 21 May 2025
12.30pm - 2pm

Physical meeting:

Development Studies Seminar Room 808
Shepstone Building
Howard College, UKZN, Durban

ZOOM LINK:

<https://ukzn.zoom.us/j/92377596830?pwd=k5oCwfclalUlmMDekDGtmYMUgaabeK.1>

About the presenter

Sinegugu Zukulu is world-renowned champion of the rights of rural people against extractivism. An educator, social and environmental activist, he was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2024 (with Nonhle Mbuthuma) for their work in fighting against the ecological destruction of mining companies in the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape. He has appeared on many television shows including Shoreline, Carte Blanche and 50/50. Sinegugu believes that Sustainable harvesting of natural resources, agroecology and eco-tourism are essential tools for rural economic development. He is an advocate for the protection and promotion of indigenous knowledge as a foundation for sustainable development. Between leading numerous local and international groups on hikes and tours, he conducts research and writes about indigenous plants and conservation.



About the seminar series

The Thought for Food seminar series examines challenging themes in food studies. If we are indeed what we eat, how do the lies and half-truths we consume shape our identities and behaviours? Given our colonial history, what could a just food system look like – considering how the intersections of gender, race, class, age, location affect access to healthful food? Are there concrete examples that we can learn from one another about food, its production and consumption, its circuits and impacts? The goal of these dialogues and presentations is to provide a platform for students, academics, activists and policy-makers to learn from ongoing work to foster more sustainable food production systems in Africa.



Seminar Series Convener: Mvuselelo Ngcoya

Partners: Centre for Civil Society and the School of Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal

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