

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Department of English Studies is running a research project entitled “Gender, Identity and Embodiment: Exploring Textual Representations”. As part of this project, we will be hosting a weekly seminar series between 19 August 2021 and 7 October 2021, every Thursday from 14:00 to 15:00. The format will involve a speaker presenting a paper for 40 minutes and this will be followed by a 20 minute question, comment and reflection slot. All sessions will be hosted on MS TEAMS.

After the conclusion of the seminar series, speakers will be invited to rework their presentations as academic articles for submission to special issues of accredited, peer reviewed journals. The project coordinators (Prof Jessica Murray and Prof Allyson Kreuter) will facilitate this process.

If you would like to present your work at this seminar series, please submit 250 word abstracts to both project coordinators (Prof Murray at murraj@unisa.ac.za and Prof Kreuter at kreuiad@unisa.ac.za) by 13 August 2021. We welcome submissions about any gendered narratives related to scripting/writing bodies and identities.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- How do authors/artists/creators represent and problematize the ways in which gender, identity and bodies take shape in the intersectional textual spaces that they create in their work?
- How do textual dynamics offer new insights into our understandings of gender, identity and embodiment?
- What do representations reveal about the gendered socio-political structures in the contexts that are depicted in the texts (broadly defined) and what do they suggest about prevailing assumptions concerning gender, identity and bodies?
- What do texts (broadly defined) suggest about alternative, more empowering approaches to the social constructions of gender, identity and embodiment?
- How do authors/ artists represent and problematize the multifaceted ways in which social constructions of gender, identity and embodiment limit access to human rights in spaces of epistemological, discursive and physical violence?

