

MORE ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS OF HONORARY DEGREES

HOMI K. BHABHA

The degree Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil), honoris causa, to Homi K. Bhabha for his exceptional ability as the world's premier postcolonial literary theorist to push the humanities in new directions, for being influential in international organisations by advancing the role of the humanities in peace, economic activity and culture, and for making the study of the humanities relevant in current times.

Born in Mumbai, India, Bhabha holds an MPhil (1974), MA (1977) and DPhil (1990) in English Literature from Oxford University and took up his first professorship at the University of Chicago as Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities. He has been at Harvard since 2001, where he serves as Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of English and American Literature and Languages, and director of the Humanities Centre.

His contribution to the humanities includes seminal publications and pioneering concepts such as hybridity, mimicry, interstitial and third space. Conceptual breakthroughs include his notion of cultural transition – acknowledging how the past continues to shape the present. Of particular importance are his contributions towards a better understanding of intercultural conflict; this is particularly vital in a world, including a South Africa, characterised by cultural strife. Showing how the histories of colonialism constantly intrude on the present, he calls for a transformed understanding of cross-cultural relations, and proposes a new conceptualisation of humanism to build a bridge between religions and cultures.

Bhabha serves as trustee of the UNESCO World Report on Cultural Diversity, and is a former chair of the Davos World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Human Rights and Dignity. His many accolades include the Padma Bhushan Prize (2010), the third-highest civilian award in India, and the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize (2015).

For this pioneering work in establishing new ways of interdisciplinary engagement towards a transformed understanding of cross-cultural relations, Stellenbosch University wishes to honour Professor Homi Bhabha.

GLYNIS MARIE BREAKWELL

The degree Doctor of Philosophy, (DPhil), honoris causa, to Glynis Marie Breakwell for having crafted identity process theory, a high-impact contribution to global social psychology, which has trickled down to the southernmost tip of Africa, where it continues to help us navigate the changes and threats of our post-apartheid reality and gives a voice to the previously marginalised.

Professor Dame Glynis Marie Breakwell's outstanding contribution to social psychology is globally significant. Locally, it has aided our understanding of how South Africans relate to post-apartheid social changes.

This University of Bath vice-chancellor since 2001 and chartered health psychologist is renowned for her scholarship in the psychology of risk, social action and change, as well as identity. Her seminal identity process theory explains individuals' coping strategies when their identities are threatened. By using globally relevant examples of threat such as unemployment and ethnical marginality – issues South Africans are all too familiar with – Breakwell has helped us comprehend the impact of technological advances, political upheaval and economic development on identity formation. In our post-apartheid context, her work has also promoted local efforts to enable victims of threat to speak out about their experiences and feelings, breaking their forced silence in previous dominant discourses.

A profound and valued expert, Breakwell is a member of both the United Kingdom (UK) Economic and Social Research Council, and the Science and Technology Honours Committee, one of a select group of British Psychological Society honorary fellows, and a senior independent director of the National Health Service Improvement Board. Also a champion for universities' role in innovation and economic regeneration, she is director of both the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and Universities UK (UUK), as well as a board member of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.

Recent accolades recognising the esteemed scholar's work include her appointment in 2012 as Dame Commander of the British Empire. Moreover, in 2014, Breakwell appeared in the Science Council's prestigious list of "100 leading UK practising scientists".

Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell embodies social impact through scholarship, which makes her worthy of Stellenbosch University's highest honour.

LESETJA KGANYAGO

The degree Doctor of Commerce (DCom), honoris causa, to LESETJA KGANYAGO for his steady hand in directing South Africa's monetary policies – standing firm despite force of circumstances, for his formidable display of intellectual leadership in policy areas such as price and financial stability, and for his role as one of the finest public-policy minds in the country, as well as his immense contribution to the credibility and transparency of South Africa's fiscal and monetary policies.

As tenth Governor of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), Lesetja Kganyago has gained international recognition for his formidable display of intellectual leadership, while in his prior role as Director-General of National Treasury he established himself as one of the finest public policy minds in the country.

Holding the degrees BCom (Accounting and Economics) and MSc (Development Economics), various positions in the banking industry eventually led Kganyago to the National Treasury. There he served in a range of capacities, including that of Director-General from 2004 until 2011. During this time, he successfully steered several reforms in public finance and financial markets. He then moved to the SARB, first as Deputy Governor and, since 2014, as Governor. Leading from the front, Kganyago jealously guarded the independence of the Reserve Bank when it came under attack, and has succeeded in warding off efforts to have the SARB's constitutional mandate amended.

Apart from chairing the Committee of Central Bank Governors of the Southern African Development Community, he was also appointed chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee in January 2018, the first central bank governor from Sub-Saharan Africa to hold this post.

Accolades include GlobalMarkets Sub-Saharan Africa Governor of the Year (October 2017), *Sunday Times* Business Leader of the Year (November 2017) and Central Banking's Governor of the Year (March 2018).

Stellenbosch University wishes to honour him for his steadfast leadership and the embodiment of the values of integrity, accountability and excellence.

ZAKERIA (ZAK) YACOOB

The degree Doctor of Laws (LLD), honoris causa, to Zakeria (Zak) Yacoob for his outstanding contribution as jurist in the field of human rights and constitutional law, for his unique, nuanced and internationally inspiring approach to adjudicating socio-economic rights, and for being a respected champion for social justice and the welfare and rights of persons with disabilities.

As an exceptional jurist, Justice Zakeria ('Zak') Yacoob helped steer South Africa into democracy and, through landmark judgments, towards a legal framework that aids in addressing the deeply entrenched socio-economic legacy of apartheid.

With democracy beckoning, he first served on the Technical Committee on Fundamental Rights in the multi-party negotiating process, and later the Independent Electoral Commission that organised the first democratic South African elections. As a member of the Independent Panel of Constitutional Experts, he helped break deadlocks in the Constitutional Assembly and advised on the drafting of our 1996 Constitution.

His appointment as justice of the Constitutional Court in 1998 signified the start of 15 years' distinguished service and seminal contributions to South Africa's jurisprudence on socio-economic rights. He developed a unique model of reasonableness review, balancing government's role to give effect to socio-economic rights with the courts' role to hold government accountable for doing so. This nuanced approach to adjudicating socio-economic rights even inspired the adoption of new international human rights law mechanisms, such as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a core United Nations human rights treaty.

Having lived with blindness since the age of 16 months, Yacoob is also a respected champion for the welfare and rights of persons with disabilities, and is a former chairperson of the South African National Council for the Blind.

An excellent jurist and active citizen, Justice Zak Yacoob's leadership in service of others and contribution to the promotion of democracy, human rights and social justice in South Africa have earned him Stellenbosch University's highest honour.