

## **The PPE Humanities Colloquium 20 September 2013**

‘...a political animal with a deep love  
for ideas and argument...’

The fourth annual PPE Humanities Colloquium will be held on Friday 20 September from 1pm to 3pm in Leslie Social Sciences lecture theatre 1A. The event is open to all members of the university community.

### **Programme (Leslie Social Sciences 1A)**

1pm - 2pm *Student presentations*

- Ida Tomasson (3<sup>rd</sup> year): Fanon on violence
- Cosimo Paulucci de Calboli (3<sup>rd</sup> year): What is economic power?
- Announcement of the PPE Humanities Essay competition topic for 2013-2014

2pm - 3pm *Guest speaker*

**Gareth van Onselen**, ‘a political animal with a deep love for ideas and argument’, is a prominent journalist and analyst who writes for the Sunday Times and Business Day, and manages the award-winning blog *Inside Politics*. Gareth has provided a title and description of his talk:

### **South Africa's unofficial constitution: How culture can subvert freedom**

While South Africa boasts one of the world's most progressive constitutions, defined by well-established liberal norms and standards, it exists in an environment often defined by the very opposite - patriarchy, superstition, popularism and nationalist sentiment. And central to understanding that environment is culture, its forms and nature. The result is a paradox, where first world expectations come into conflict with third world realities. Ideals like accountability, freedom of speech and excellence, are held hostage to practicalities like respect, offence and power. I will set out the argument and illustrate it with some examples and argue, if we are to really entrench democratic thought, we need to start to challenge those cultural beliefs which threaten freedom. And critically appraising our various cultural beliefs is where we start.

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Members of the university community are welcome to attend either or both components of the Colloquium.