

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rethabile Possa is an Associate in the Department of Languages Literatures. A/Prof Possa is a Student Registration Advisor for the Faculty of Humanities (UCT). She is the appointed Deputy Warden at Forest Hill and an Acting Warden at Fuller Hall. She is a member of UCT Future Professors programme. Through her activism, Prof Possa has built strong leadership serving as the Gender-Based Violence Tribunal Staff Assessor at UCT.

**A/Prof Rethabile Possa** is a published author with several academic publications, as well as works in Sesotho poetry, drama, and fiction. She previously served as the Deputy Chair of the Southern African Folklore Society (SAFOS), the elected Coordinator of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA), and the Deputy Secretary of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA). She also contributed to the Department of National Libraries in South Africa by translating classical books into African languages.

A/Prof Possa is a Sesotho poetry editor for AVBOB poetry competition. She is recognised nationally and internationally as a keynote speaker for academic forums. Holds an extensive background in African literature: Folklore research studies and onomastics. Holds an extensive background in African literature: Folklore research studies, in particular, Sesotho language with an advantage of knowing two Sotho orthographies. She currently supervises postgraduate students and is conducting several external examinations and departmental reviews for other institutions of higher learning.

### **Chairperson, Sesotho National Language Bodies**

*Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB)*

*Dates of Service: 2025 –2030*

- Provide strategic leadership and oversight for the development, preservation, and promotion of Sesotho as one of South Africa's official languages.
- Facilitate collaboration among linguistic experts, cultural stakeholders, and government entities to advance language policy and standardisation.
- Lead initiatives focused on terminology development, orthography refinement, and the integration of Sesotho in education, media, and public discourse.
- Represent Sesotho language interests at national forums and contribute to multilingualism and linguistic diversity in South Africa.

She has done a number of training on leadership development and women empowerment across South Africa. She mentors young girls and boys across the Western Cape.

## CURRENT STUDENT SUPERVISION

### MA STUDENTS

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Nthabeleng Molakeng | University of Cape Town                 |
| Angel Molete        | University of Cape Town                 |
| Bianca Browne       | Stellenbosch University( Co-supervisor) |

## PhD STUDENTS

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Phakamani Ntentema         | University of Cape Town |
| Ncebakazi Mtombeni         | University of Cape Town |
| 'Manthabile Maduna         | University of Cape Town |
| Phodisho Confidence Kgwale | University of Cape Town |
| Somikazi Deyi              | University of Cape Town |
| Matumelo Motoboli          | University of Cape Town |
| Oluwakemi Oluwatoba        | University of Cape Town |
| Zodwa Mtirara              | University of Cape Town |

## GRADUATED MA STUDENTS

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Phakamani Ntentema | University of Cape Town            |
| Ncebakazi Mtombeni | University of Cape Town            |
| Ziyanda Yola       | University of Cape Town            |
| Silu Coki          | University of Cape Town            |
| Mathato Mweza      | The National University of Lesotho |
| Likhapha Rannoni   | The National University of Lesotho |
| Mapitso Thoala     | The National University of Lesotho |

## GRADUATED PhD STUDENTS

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Palesa Mabohlokoa Khotso- Khanyetsi | University of South Africa (Co-Supervisor)     |
| Phenyane Tlali                      | Durban University of Technology(Co-supervisor) |
| Thobile Mbatha                      | University of Cape Town                        |
| Angelika Mukoya                     | University of Cape Town                        |
| Anele Gobodwana                     | University of Cape Town                        |
| Naledi Maponopono                   | University of Cape Town                        |
| Thulani Nzama                       | University of Cape Town                        |

## Publications

Molulela,R., Possa-Mogoera, R.M, and Mape Mohlomi, M. 2026. English Literal Translations of Sesotho Proverbs: The Case of Mokitimi's (1997) Strategic Use of Compensation in *The Voice of the People*. *South African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*.

- Possa-Mogoera, R.M. 2023. The naming of the child born out of wedlock among the Basotho. *Nomina Africana*.37(1) <https://doi.org/10.2989/NA.2023.37.1.6.1377>
- Possa-Mogoera. R. 2023. Naming technique in Maphalla's drama Tahleho. *South African Journal of African Languages*, 43:1, 61-68, DOI: 10.1080/02572117.2023.2200456
- Possa-Mogoera, R. and Khotso, P. Phafoli, L. 2021. Perceived Masculinity among Basotho Women: An Analysis of Litolobonya Folksongs. *South African Journal for Folklore Studies*. Vol 30, No2. Pp1-19. <https://doi.org/10.25159/2663-6697/8530>
- Possa-Mogoera, R. and Khotso, P. 2021. An analysis of marriage, child acceptance and inheritance through Basotho proverb *Ngwana ke wa dikgomo*. *South African Journal of African Languages*, 41:1, 55-60, DOI:10.1080/02572117.2021.1902134
- Possa-Mogoera, R., 2020, 'A bad name is an omen: Stigmatising names amongst the Basotho', *Literator* 41(1), a1710. <https://doi.org/10.4102/lit.v41i1.1710>
- Babayi, I. Dowling, T and Possa-Mogoera, R. 2020. The Language of Wakanda: An Analysis of the use of isiXhosa in the blockbuster Hollywood Science-fiction film Black Panther. *South African Journal of African Languages*. Vol 40 No 3
- Possa, R. 2019. Rape culture: are our proverbs perpetuating it? *Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs*. Tavira. Porgugal
- Possa, R. and Khotso, P. 2015 "Naming of Basotho Medicinal Plants: Semantic Connection To their remedies". *Southern African Journal for Folklore Studies*, 25(1) pp 34-37
- Possa, R. M. 2014. "The structure of Contemporary Sesotho Proverbs". *South African Journal of African Languages* Vol 34. pp 61-69.
- Possa, R. 2013. The place of oral literature in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: a perspective on Basotho proverbs. DLitt Dissertation.
- Gwekwerere, T., Possa, R. and A. Nyamende. 2013. The African cultural grounding and historical provenance of the Afrotriumphalist perspective. *Southern African Journal for Folklore Studies*, 23(1)
- Possa, R. 2012. Adaptability of Sesotho Proverbs: Sociolinguistic Approach .". *Southern African Journal for Folklore Studies*. Volume 22(1) pp 125-135
- Possa, R.M. Makgopa, M. 2010. "The Dynamism of Culture: The Case of Sesotho Proverbs". *Southern African Journal for Folklore Studies*. Volume 20 No (02). pp (01 -12).
- M. Rapeane-Mathonsi, P. Khotso, M. Mohlomi and R. Possa. 2009. "Dynamism of Sesotho: HIV and AIDS-Related Naming Among Basotho". *Nomina Africana*. 23(2): pp.109-126.

### **Books (CREATIVE WRITING)**

1. Possa-Mogoera, R. *Kodiyamalla (Poetry book)*.  
<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1035746?fbclid=IwAR0r31WxsR8yUKxd5yGRjm-BdFalNxMhrpyj76BiC3rJzOBrtU2jH1UoSD0>

2. *Kgodiso ya ngwana Mosotho* (Children's book)
3. *Dikeledi ha di wele fatshe* (Drama book)  
<https://openbooks.uct.ac.za/uct/catalog/book/28>

### **Edited books**

*I wish I'D said.* (Poetry book). 2021. Editors Johann-de-Lange & **Possa Mogoera**, R.M.

<https://www.litnet.co.za/new-from-naledi-i-wish-id-said-vol-iv-edited-by-johann-de-lange-and-rethabile-possa-mogoera/>

*Boithuto, Ntlafatso, Poloko le Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho: Malebela ka Ditsebi. Buka ya pele.* 2025. Bahl. **R. Possa** & M Ramafikeng. CASAS. ISBN:978-1-920447-08-3

*Boithuto, Ntlafatso, Poloko le Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho: Malebela ka Ditsebi. Buka ya Bobedi.* 2025. Mohl. **R. Possa** Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS)  
ISBN: 978-1-920447-10-6.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Possa, R** & Ramafikeng M. 2025. Litsikitlano tse bakoang ke phetolelo e sa nepahalang lefapheng la tsa Bophelo. *Boithuto, Ntlafatso, Poloko le Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho: Malebela ka Ditsebi. Buka ya pele.* 2025. Bahl. R. Possa & M Ramafikeng. CASAS. ISBN:978-1-920447-08-3

**Possa, R. M.** 2024. *Discrepancies in Sesotho orthography; challenges in cross-border collaborations. Contextualising African Language Dynamics of Change.* (Eds) Wolff, H. & Roux, J. C. SUN Press.

Mtsoyi, K. and **Possa, R.M.** 2024. *Lost in translation: An evaluation of the subtitles in Ityala lamawele (The lawsuit of the twins).* UKZN Press

Maponopono, N., **Possa, R.M.** & Deyi, S. 2024. *Too little time? Reflecting on the time afforded in teaching and learning of IsiXhosa at a particular school in the Western Cape. Contextualising African Language Dynamics of Change.* (Eds) Wolff, H. & Roux, J. C. SUN Press.

Futuse, L., **Possa, R.M.** & Deyi, S. 2024. *Noun class assignation of loan words in isiXhosa. Contextualising African Language Dynamics of Change.* (Eds) Wolff, H. & Roux, J. C. SUN Press.

Tlali, G.P. and **Possa, R.M.** 2024. *The influence of English on Sesotho animal colours. African Languages in Classrooms and Academia.* (Eds) Motinyane, M., Mletshe, X. & Tshongolo X. SUN Press.

