

# SEX, SIN, DESIRE, AND THE HOMOSEXUAL SPECIES AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

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**Abstract:** In March 1658, the Dutch vessel, Amersfoort, serendipitously anchored a novel predicament at the Cape, the sodomite sins, and their contemporary articulations continue to entwine Amsterdam and Cape Town's mainstreamed narratives on sexuality. Revisiting Andre van Rensburg and Susie Newton-King's historiographies of sodomy in the Cape, this paper investigates the relationship between the compound "sodomite sin(s)" and the juridical category of sodomy, and how histories of sex(uality) have informed archival categorizing and interpretations of early modern same-sex sexual behaviors in the Dutch Republic and its colonial geographies.

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**Wednesday at 13:00**

**Online: Zoom**

*Join the history crowd at*

**Department of Historical Studies  
University of Cape Town**

Thato Magano (pronouns: Thato) is a doctoral candidate in the Program in Comparative Literature at Rutgers University (USA), and in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Leiden University's Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS) at Universiteit Leiden (NL). Thato's doctoral research reconsiders the utility of sodomy in the Dutch empire to demonstrate how its cultural and social logics were foundational to Dutch identity as were any of its founding mythologies, in the Republic and its transoceanic worlds.

