

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ubuntu Virtual Student Dialogues

Cross-Atlantic dialogues between African and U.S. students on critical issues facing young people in today's world!

We are pleased to invite applications for participation in a four-part series of Ubuntu Virtual Student Dialogues scheduled for **9:00 – 10:30 am EST (1:00 – 2:30 pm GMT/UTC and 3:00 – 4:30 pm GMT+2)** on the **18th and 25th of May** and on the **1st and 8th of June 2021**. Designed to connect students at African and U.S. higher education institutions, the dialogue sessions offer a much-needed forum for cultivating cross-cultural understanding on contemporary and critical issues confronting young people across the Atlantic. Participants will have the opportunity for critical reflection as they rethink real and imagined identities and differences (e.g. national, racial/ethnic, linguistic, religious, and political). Dialogue topics include, but are not limited to:

- The history and legacies of and responses to systemic racism
- The meanings of ubuntu and Pan-Africanism as concepts and as practice
- Decolonization and transformation of knowledge production and institutions
- Africa and America as ideas, places, identities and subjects of study

The virtual student dialogues are being offered as a pilot multi-country and multi-campus project of the *Ubuntu Dialogues* project, an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded partnership between the African Studies Center at Michigan State University (MSU) and the Stellenbosch University Museum at Stellenbosch University (SU). The partnership project is committed to strengthening existing connections among universities and communities through transnational dialogue and engagement among students and faculty; museum and heritage studies practitioners; and community partners in the U.S. and South Africa.

Applicants may be English-speaking undergraduate or (post) graduate students from anywhere in the U.S or in African countries. Students from underrepresented minority and historically marginalized backgrounds and those with an interest in thinking and working across boundaries and borders are encouraged to apply. Reliable access to internet is required for participation. Interested and eligible candidates are invited to submit a one-page resume and a Statement of Interest (400-500 words) describing their educational background and career/professional goals; providing 2 – 3 specific topics, within the broad focus areas above, that they would be interested in discussing as part of the dialogues; and spelling out the unique contributions they would bring to the cross-Atlantic dialogues. 20 applicants will be selected, 10 each from the U.S. and African countries.

The resume and Statement of Interest should be sent as one PDF file over email to **Dr. Upenyu Majee** (MSU) at majeeupe@msu.edu or to **Dr. Marietjie Oelofsen** (Stellenbosch University) at hmoelofsen@sun.ac.za by **Monday April 12, 2021**. Also, feel free to reach out to Dr. Majee or Dr. Oelofsen with any questions.