



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

07 June 2013

New UCT research explores land and agricultural reform in SA

University of Cape Town PhD qualifier Fani Ncapayi explores land and agricultural reform in the South African context. In his thesis, Ncapayi investigates how land has influenced changes in social relations in rural areas of the former reserves, from the time of colonial contact to 2011.

The bulk of his research was conducted between 2009 and 2011 in the Eastern Cape's Xhalinga magisterial district, focusing on Lumphaphasi. This was a period during which he gathered data through interviews and archival work with the beneficiaries of the state's land reform programme. His thesis challenges the established view about the penetration of capitalist relations into rural areas, and the conversion of rural producers into wage workers. Because of the capitalist influence on rural dwellers, Ncapayi argues that land has ceased to be important in the lives of rural people.

Ncapayi argues that, despite most rural dwellers having become wage workers, they retained continuous, albeit varying levels of attachment to rural agricultural land. His thesis argues that such persons can no longer be regarded as peasants given that they hire labour and combine wage income and land.

Ncapayi's research comes amidst recent intense debates on the issue of land reform. On March 25 the *Umhlaba 1913-2013* exhibition, which commemorates the Natives Land Act of 1913, opened at the South African National Gallery in Cape Town. Its launch coincided with UCT's Land Divided conference, which discussed land-related issues.

Ncapayi obtained his MA from the University of the Western Cape in 2004. He registered in 2008, under the auspices of the National Research Fund Research Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa in the Department of Sociology, and has since participated actively in the Research Chair's weekly seminar programme. He is one of the PhD students who are graduating at UCT this week (on 6 and 7 June 2013).

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Nasiphi Fazi

Media Liaison Intern
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Welgelegen, Upper Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank
Tel: (021) 650 4976 Fax: (021) 650 3780
Cell: (079) 380 4816
E-mail: nasiphi.fazi@uct.ac.za Website: www.uct.ac.za