

Biographical Sketch of Professor Leketi Makalela

Leketi Makalela is a full professor and founding Director of the Hub for Multilingual Education and Literacies at the University of the Witwatersrand. He obtained his PhD from Michigan State University with combined specializations in linguistics, literacy and education. He is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at City University of New York. His research areas include translanguaging, multilingual education and literacies. He is a B-rated researcher and a holder of the National Research Foundation SARCHi Chair on *Advancing African Languages for Social Inclusion and Access*. He pioneered a globally acclaimed theoretical model: “ubuntu translanguaging” and its pedagogical equivalent, “ubuntu translanguaging pedagogy” to normalize simultaneous learning and teaching in more than one language in complex multilingual education systems. His academic citizenship includes founding a non-for-profit organization for community-based literacy innovations, Balang Foundation, and serving as a member of Umalusi Council’s Executive Committee, the National Reading Coalition Research Convenor and the Old Mutual Foundation Trustee. His highly influential book is “*Shifting lenses: multilingualism, decolonization and education in the global South*.” In 2021, he produced four interrelated books on innovations on language and education. These are: ‘*Decolonising multilingualism in Africa: Recentering Silent Voices from the Global South*’ (with Finex Ndlovu); ‘*Rethinking Language Use in Digital Africa: Technology and Communication in Sub-Saharan Africa*.’ (with Goodith White); ‘*Not Eleven Languages: Translanguaging and South African Multilingualism in Concert*’; and ‘*Language and institutional identity in the post-apartheid South African higher education: perspectives on policy and practice*’.