Sex, sexuality and sexual health are often viewed through a narrowly biomedical lens. This ignores the fact that they are profoundly social and historical in character. Recent work in Southern Africa (and beyond) has sought to challenge this perspective, asking important questions about how to move beyond notions of damage and risk in relation to sex, sexuality and health, to a focus on recognition, rights, respect and pleasure.

Building on the contributions in the recently published book – *Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Health in Southern Africa* (Routledge) – and the experiences of seminar participants, this event will take the lid off these and related concerns.

This event will be of special interest to scholars, health professionals, community workers and activists seeking new ways of understanding and engaging with old issues.

**PROGRAMME**

14:30 – 15:00   Arrival

15:00 – 15:10   Introduction to the seminar and guests

15:10 – 15:20   Welcome Remarks

15:20 – 15:30   Re-thinking ‘Women’s Month’
15:30 – 16:15  Keynote Address – Difficult pleasure: recent experiments in southern African feminist imagination
Prof Pumla Gqola (NMMU)

16:15 – 16:25  Introducing Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Health in Southern Africa
Deevia Bhana and Mary Crewe

16:25 – 17:15  Critical questions panel discussion

- Anthony Brown – Validating the role and partnership with civil society organisations in responding to homophobia and transphobia in Namibian schools
- Pierre Brouard and Landa Mabenge – Trans allyship: a conversation
- Blessings Kaunda and Nirvana Pillay – Power, visibility and sexual and reproductive health in Southern Africa
- Catriona Macleod and Matsepo Motsetse – Refining youth sexualities empowerment programmes: the possibilities of a critical citizenship framework
- Pre-recorded Session: Marc Epprecht – So what have we learned after all this time? Understanding gender, sex and sexuality in Southern Africa

17:15 – 18.00  Open discussion
Moderator Prof: Vasu Reddy

17:55 – 18:00  Vote of thanks
Mary Crewe

18:00  Close, followed by refreshments