

Fashioning Masculinity

16 August 2011,
Medical Research Council Room

Programme on Traditions and Transformation (POTT)

Changing Traditions

"Men and the ways
in which they are
fashioned and
fashion themselves."

For further information contact:

Candice Rule	Khamita Mohamed
crule@mrc.ac.za	kmohamed@mrc.ac.za
+27 21 938 0535	+27 21 938 0478



Learn without limits

UNISA  university of south africa

Fashioning masculinity is an interdisciplinary event hosted by the University of South Africa's Institute for Social and Health Sciences' (ISHS) Programme on Traditions and Transformation (POTT) *Changing Traditions* strategic project in collaboration with the MRC-UNISA Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit.

This event will focus on men and the ways in which they are fashioned and fashion themselves, and will be hosted on **16 August 2011 in the Medical Research Council's Boardroom, Cape Town.**

Men fashion themselves every day, through the clothes they wear, the demeanor they inhabit and/or the bodies they build and groom. Men's clothes and bodies signify social meanings like status, geographic location, race, ethnicity, affiliations, aspiration and generation. Even the absence of 'conscious' self-stylization is gendered. Both a mechanic in grease-covered overalls and a male executive in his uniform, the corporate suit express particular kinds of masculinity. Men's bodies and clothing act as visual symbols of different types of manhood. Clothing and particular kinds of bodies therefore enable and produce articulations of differing masculinities. However, neither clothing nor the bodies of men exist outside of tradition as they are subject to a system of recognition. We assume a man in a suit is some kind of corporate executive and a man in grease-covered overalls is a mechanic as

these are their traditional forms of attire. This event will look at this relationship between fashioning, masculinity and tradition.

Fashioning masculinity aims to enable interesting and inventive ideas to emerge about tradition and the traditions, historical and contemporary of masculine self-fashioning, men's representation and stylization in the streets, media and fashion industry.

Fashioning Masculinity will launch the Changing Traditions Project 2011 theme - Changing Traditions: Everyday Lives of African Men. It is the first of three events; to be followed by Boys in Africa in October and will culminate in the biennial travelling *pitso* in Ethiopia, 14-16 November 2011. Changing Traditions' is a trans-disciplinary, international and Africa-centered undertaking that focuses on the traditions surrounding the production of wealth, identity, peace, and equality.

Kindly, RSVP as space is limited.

For further information contact:

Kharnita Mohamed kmohamed@mrc.ac.za 021 938-0398

Candice Rule crule@mrc.ac.za 021-938-0535