

# INVITATION

The SARCHI Chair in Higher Education and Human Development invites you to the second webinar of the Research Alliance for Higher Education in Africa (RAHEdA)

## **Epistemic Uprisings: Africanising Doctoral Education and Reclaiming the Intellectual Soul of the University**

African higher education stands at a pivotal epistemic threshold, where the pursuit of global relevance often masks an ongoing intellectual subjugation. Nowhere is this contradiction more starkly visible than in doctoral education, a space still tethered to Euro-modernist logics that valorise detached objectivity, linear rationalism, and disembodied knowledge. These paradigms, often inherited uncritically, re-inscribe colonial hierarchies under the guise of methodological neutrality and academic excellence. In this presentation, I advance the provocation that doctoral education in Africa must be recast not as a site of intellectual mimicry but as a battleground for epistemic liberation, a space for insurgent scholarship that reclaims Africa's right to theorise itself.

Framed within the context of the Doctoral Training Suite at the University of Zambia, a six-module curriculum designed to disrupt colonial knowledge architectures, Prof Chipindi explores how epistemological sovereignty can be enacted through intentional curriculum reconfiguration, supervisory decolonisation, and scholarly resistance to citational dependency.

Rather than romanticising indigeneity or essentialising African knowledge, he proposes a critical-creative praxis that fuses theoretical depth with political urgency. This work reframes African universities not merely as instruments of capacity development but as autonomous sites of world-making, spaces where the intellectual soul of the continent is defended, reimagined, and set ablaze.

**Date:** 30 July 2025

**Time:** 13:00-14:30 SAST

**Place:** Online via Teams

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**Speaker: Prof. Ferdinand Mwaka Chipindi**

Prof Chipindi is a respected academic leader, postcolonial critic, and defiant scholar with over 18 years of service in higher education. Currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies at the University of Zambia, he is known for challenging inherited academic orthodoxies and advocating for epistemic disobedience in both research and teaching. Prof. Chipindi earned his PhD from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (USA), specialising in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, with minors in Development Studies and Social Change. His scholarship consistently interrogates the legacies of colonial knowledge systems, and his teaching centres African intellectual traditions, radical pedagogy, and institutional critique. He has published widely, consulted on national education policy, and mentored scores of early-career academics. His Teaching Methodology course has become a site of intellectual insurgency, empowering lecturers to decolonise their practice.

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