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VUT
SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND TRANSFORMATION

DOING JUSTICE TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: 20 July 2023 | **VENUE :** Sisonke Restaurant | **TIME:** 10h30 – 13h00

Doing justice to social justice in South African higher education Masebala Tjabane Vaal University of Technology Venitha Pillay University of Pretoria “If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come to help me because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together” Lila Watson, Aboriginal Australian.

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to develop a conceptualisation of social justice in higher education based on a close reading of the current literature in the field. An important assumption we make is that higher education is a valuable mechanism for social justice. We set the literature against policy documents that detail South African aspirations with regard to the achievement of social justice goals. Our aim is to stimulate debate on and engagement with issues of social justice in the local and global context that continues to manifest increasing socio-economic injustices. We argue that human liberation from global social injustice is intertwined at the individual and collective level and that it requires a collective human agency inherent in the radical tradition of social justice, which exhibits impressive credentials for facilitating the achievement of social justice.

