

Abridge CV – André Keet

André entered the higher education sector for the first time on a full-time professional basis in October 2008 when he became the Director of the Transdisciplinary Programme at the University of Fort Hare. Between 1996 and 2008, he worked in and with independent public institutions responsible for navigating the crucial transitional phase in South Africa's contemporary history whilst also teaching part-time and on a visiting basis at universities across the country. Most of his post-1994 work focussed on processes aimed at deepening democracy, social justice and the promotion and protection of human rights. Joining the South African Human Rights Commission in 1996, André later on became its Deputy Chief Executive Officer. On a unanimous recommendation from parliament, the president appointed André as a part-time Commissioner to the Commission for Gender Equality in 2008.

His first professorial appointment was as an adjunct-professor at the University of Pretoria in 2009; followed by appointments at the University of Fort Hare in 2010 and the University of the Free State (UFS) in 2011, as the Director of the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice and advisor to the Rectorate. He was also appointed for a short period as the Acting Vice-Rector: Student Affairs and External Relations at the UFS. As Director, and with the aid and support of associates, staff and postdoctoral fellows, he managed the intellectual culture and research outputs of the Institute to competitive levels.

André himself is a productive scholar and is widely published nationally and internationally, and has supervised and co-supervised more than 15 postdoctoral fellows, doctoral and masters students. This pattern is being sustained. He was and is involved in 12 scholarly editorships and has joined up with Michael Cross at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education at the University of Johannesburg as joint editors of two book series on higher education transformation; one national, and one international.

He is a frequently requested speaker with more than 40 keynotes, invited talks and prestige and special lectures behind his name; and has recently been offered the Marsha Lilien Gladstein Visiting Professor of Human Rights (Autumn, 2018) at the Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, USA. He also received a Keynote and Master Class invitation to the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture at Justus Leibig University in Germany.

André is presently the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at NMU, the Chairperson of the Ministerial Oversight Committee on Transformation in South African Public Universities, Member of the Council on Higher Education, and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Race, Education and Decoloniality, Carnegie School of Education, Leeds Beckett University in the UK.

André is from Kylemore, a town close to Stellenbosch in the Western Cape.