

# Ululation

A keynote talk by Louise Meintjes



**Global Music and Sound Studies Presents:**

**Louise Meintjes** is Associate Professor of Music and Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. Her most recent book, *Dust of the Zulu: Ngoma Aesthetics after Apartheid*, explores political and aesthetic significance of ngoma, a competitive form of dance and music that emerged out of the legacies of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa. She is also the author of *Sound of Africa! Making Music Zulu in a South African Studio*, a book which offers a rare portrait of the music recording process during South Africa's tumultuous transition from apartheid to democratic rule.

[soundstudies.wisc.edu](http://soundstudies.wisc.edu)

**Africa@Noon Lecture:  
"Dust of the Zulu: Ngoma  
Aesthetics after Apartheid"**

**Wednesday, April 4,  
12:00pm-1:00pm  
Ingraham Hall 206**

Less a genre to be contextualized than an embodied practice, ngoma singing and dancing carries histories of labor and struggle in the moving body, rendering moments of improvised artistry as also politically enabling. Meintjes also shows how ngoma helps build community, cultivate responsible manhood, and provide its participants with a means to reconcile South Africa's past with its post-apartheid future.

**Media and Cultural Studies  
Keynote Talk:  
"Ululation"**

**Thursday, April 5,  
4:00pm-5:30pm  
Chazen L140**

Ululation is a sound of the South. Considering its technique, sound and social practice in Zulu ngoma performance, I take ululation as a metaphor in Sound Studies for dialogue returning amplified and inflected from the South. That dialogue shifts the attention in Sound Studies to the voice as technology and finds sympathetic vibrations with Black Studies.

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