

Tribute to Dr Sethunya Tshepho Mosime

Dr. Sethunya Tshepho Mosime—a beloved scholar, teacher, advisor, feminist, friend, and comrade—passed away on December 10th, 2024. A senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Botswana, her sudden passing has left our community in grief. We extend our deepest condolences to her family.

For *Feminist Africa*, a pan-African Journal and knowledge community for research, dialogue and strategy, Sethunya was more than a colleague. She was part of the first cohort of Associate Editors who played a crucial role in strengthening the journal's capacity and solidarity. Her vision and commitment were instrumental in shaping the current phase of *Feminist Africa*. At the time of her passing, she was co-editing an important forthcoming Issue on "Decolonising Play"—a project that reimagined play not as a mere pastime, but as a powerful form of resistance, a learning tool, and a method of healing.

Sethunya was a committed scholar whose doctoral dissertation (2007) in the Graduate Program in Media and Cultural Studies at the University of KwaZulu Natal (SA) critically examined the political economy and status of the media in Botswana. Using Botswana Television, she demonstrated how state ownership of the media compromises freedom of expression and information—a prescient analysis in an age of misinformation. Her later works expanded to include Radio Botswana and the Botswana Daily News, consistently raising alarm about what she saw as control of the media and stifling of debate by the State. Her critique of power was an ongoing scholarly theme. As a committed feminist, she was unflinching in her analysis of how government practices re-entrenched and normalized societal inequalities. Her scholarship centred women's experiences, addressing critical issues such as gender-based violence, a pervasive challenge on our continent. Themes of resistance against domination, decolonization, and women's political leadership in Africa characterized her intellectual work.

Sethunya's engagement extended far beyond scholarly work. She had a vibrant presence across several African feminist networks and was deeply committed to feminist solidarity and social justice.

She was a connector, she loved traveling and learning from people. Sethunya had a friend in so many countries we visited with her. She was always eager to taste local cuisine and connect with people. Markets were her favourite exploration sites in every country, and her love for soccer meant she was always on the hunt for soccer team jerseys. Sethunya's approach to friendships and solidarity was marked by genuine curiosity and warmth. She lit up the room when she walked in and was such a great source of joy.

With her playful spirit, Sethunya made friends effortlessly. She was known for her humour, her tricks, and her ability to lighten serious moments. Her ability to create joyful environments was a gift to our feminist community.

To her children, her parents, her family, and all who knew and loved her: our *Feminist Africa* family shares in this profound loss. Sethunya's warmth, her intellect, and her playful spirit will be deeply missed. She leaves an indelible mark on our hearts and our work.

From all members of the *Feminist Africa* Collective.