

Sol Plaatje's *Native Life* A Hundred Years On

Book Launch and Roundtable

Friday 25 November 2016
5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Courtroom, First Floor
Senate House
London WC1E 7HU

With: Sabata-mpho Mokae (novelist and poet / Sol Plaatje University), **Janet Remmington** (York University), **Brian Willan** (Rhodes University), **Elizabeth Williams** (Goldsmiths), **Heather Hughes** (Lincoln University), **William Beinart** (Oxford University)

Discussant: Andrew van der Vlies (Queen Mary)



Sol Plaatje in London, 1916

An event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of Sol Plaatje's *Native Life in South Africa* and to celebrate the publication of *Sol Plaatje's Native Life in South Africa. Past and Present* (Wits University Press), edited by Bhekizizwe Peterson, Brian Willan, and Janet Remmington

Originally published in war-time London in 1916, Sol Plaatje's *Native Life in South Africa* was written by one of South Africa's most talented early 20th century black leaders and journalists. *Native Life* vividly narrates Plaatje's investigative journeying into South Africa's rural heartlands to report on the effects of the discriminatory 1913 Natives Land Act and his involvement in the deputation to the British imperial government. At the same time it tells the bigger story of the assault on black rights and opportunities in the newly consolidated Union of South Africa, and about South Africa's place in the wider world. The aim of the new, multi-authored volume is to shed light on how and why *Native Life* came into being at a critical historical juncture, and to reflect on how it can be read in relation to South Africa's heightened challenges today.

Questions? Contact Rebekah Lee (r.lee@gold.ac.uk) or Hilary Sapire (h.sapire@bbk.ac.uk)

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