



Akbar M. Saeed, Associate Professor
 Director, Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa
 519-756-8228 ext. 5764 or asaheed@wlu.ca

Beth Gurney, Associate Director
 Communications & Public Affairs
 519-756-8228 ext. 5753 or bgurney@wlu.ca

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Laurier lecture series examines global citizenship through the vision of Nelson Mandela

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University and the [Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa](#) continue the **Nelson Mandela lecture series** with a session titled, “Global Citizenship through the vision of Nelson Mandela: A focus on global health and environmental factors.” The speaker will be **David Zakus**, a professor from the School of Occupational and Public Health at Ryerson University.

The event takes place at Laurier’s Brantford campus on **Tuesday, Sept. 19** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Room 127 of the **SC Johnson Building** (SCJ), located at 38 Market St. The lecture is co-sponsored by Laurier’s [Human Rights and Human Diversity Students’ Association](#) and [Criminology Students’ Association](#). Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

Zakus has worked in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa as an educator and researcher, and as a public health and health services consultant. His research includes a focus on global health and environmental sustainability. His current projects are in Rwanda, Niger, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, China and Canada.

“In today’s globalized world, whatever happens in one part of the world tends to have effects on people and places elsewhere in the world,” said [Akbar Saeed](#), Laurier associate professor and director of the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa. “More than ever, whether we like it or not, we are slowly becoming global citizens on some levels and with far reaching duties and responsibilities.”

Saeed says Zakus will help participants to conceptualize and navigate these developments by using his vast experience in Africa and the vision of Nelson Mandela. With a focus on global health and environmental factors, Zakus will discuss what it means to be a global citizen.

“The Tshepo Institute greatly looks forward to Dr. Zakus delivering this year’s inaugural Nelson Mandela Lecture,” said Saeed.

The mission of the Tshepo Institute is to promote global awareness and excellence in knowledge development on African issues with the aim of inspiring positive transformation. It serves as a hub for knowledge mobilization and student and faculty enrichment that can inform transformative policies and emphasize causes for hope.