

– Institute's Colloquium –



**The Institute of Ethnology  
of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität  
is glad to welcome**

**Dr. Dominique Santos (Rhodes University South Africa)**

**Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021, 4-6 p.m.**

**Speaking with The Sea: Divination and Identity in South Africa**

The Eastern Cape Indian ocean coastline in South Africa is known for rough seas and a large number of shipwrecks, spanning the expansion of European ocean trade from the 15th century onwards. Drawing on frames of divination methodology, subaltern studies and radical participation, and focusing on two Portuguese slave shipwrecks in particular, this paper begins a provisional process of considering how the application of anthropological knowledge in conversation with indigenous knowledge practitioners can centre indigenous technology not as object of study, but lead investigator in restorative history projects. In conversation with Eastern Cape traditional healer Rev Thebe Shale, alternative cosmological frames and divinatory insights combine with critique of the ecological consequences of the extractive world which has been created in the past few hundred years. This is revealing of the entanglements of historical ocean trade with indigenous conceptions of the water, ongoing concerns with social justice and the de-centering of colonial knowledge systems.

The Institute's Colloquium will take place digitally and the required information will be announced.

**Everybody is welcome!**