



*The Center for Historical Interpretation,
Department of History, University of Illinois presents:*

Biographies and Liberation History in South Africa: Approaches and Contestations

Dr. Uma Mesthrie

Wednesday, September 18, 4 pm, 100 Greg Hall

This talk will examine the burgeoning of biographical productions in post-apartheid South Africa and particularly examines the different approaches and also contestations that have emerged in the writing of biographies of key leaders. As part of the presentation, Mesthrie will share her own experiences in writing the *Life of Manilal Gandhi*, Gandhi's second son, but she also focuses on the biographies of I. B. Tabata, Oliver Tambo, Thabo Mbeki, Kgalema Motlante, Steve Biko, Albert Luthuli, Aboobaker Asvat and Mac Maharaj, among others.

Professor Mesthrie is a historian of Indian diasporic labor, the anti-apartheid struggle, and the visual archive of indentured workers in the Indian Ocean World as well. She is currently a faculty member at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

This event is part of our 3 year initiative, World Histories from Below. The theme for AY 2013-14 is "Grassroots Histories: Politics, Nature, Commons." For more information see <http://worldhistoriesfrombelow.org/>

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