

Xolela Mangcu is Professor of Sociology and History, and Interim Director of Africana Studies at George Washington University. He was previously Professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town from 2012-2017. He is a fellow of Harvard University, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), The Brookings Institution, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, The Rockefeller Foundation, and The Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London. He was also the recipient of the 2015 Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship, Africa's biggest academic fellowship. In 2017 he was admitted as a fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton but unfortunately had to decline the offer. Mangcu obtained his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University in 1997.

He has authored and edited nine books, including *Biko: A Life*, which won the University of Cape Town's Meritorious Award; *The Meaning of Mandela* (Essays by Henry Louis Gates Jr., and Cornel West and Wole Soyinka); *Becoming Worthy Ancestors* (Essays by Benedict Anderson, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Martin Bernal); *To the Brink: The State of Democracy in South Africa*; *The Arrogance of Power: South Africa's Leadership Meltdown* and *The Color of Our Future: Does Race Matter in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. He is now working on two projects – a biography of Nelson Mandela for Oxford University Press and a biography of Desmond Tutu for Yale University Press. He is also working on a book project on Harold Washington, the first African American mayor of Chicago.

His scholarly articles have been published in international journals such as the *Journal of Southern African Studies*; *African Affairs*; *Journal of American Sociology*; *Interventions: The Journal of Post-Colonial Studies*; *Critical Philosophy of Race*; *Transition*; *the Du Bois Review*, and the *Oxford Handbook of Global South Youth Studies*.

South Africa's biggest newspaper, The Sunday Times, has described Mangcu as "possibly South Africa's most prolific public intellectual."