








# Dee Marco (PhD)

## CONTACT

-  Johannesburg, Gauteng 2092
-  +27769066386
-  dee.marco@gmail.com
-  www.motherlab.co.za
-  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2268-8235>

## LANGUAGES

### English

Native

### Afrikaans

Advanced

## SKILLS

- Team leader
- Agile and adaptable
- Curriculum development
- Creative and proficient researcher
- Narrative and story telling/building
- Good understanding of South African and African cultural context
- Public speaking
- Strong writing skills
- Mentoring
- Intercultural competency
- International collaboration
- Well networked
- Problem solver
- Curator

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dee Marco is an experienced, curious and ambitious interdisciplinary scholar currently based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dee is a researcher who centralises narratives and stories to create meaningful global engagements with the intention to effect change. Dee balances the theory of the university with industry engagements and real life experiences. Dee mentors teams of colleagues and students with compassion and drive and is passionate about learning.

Dee is a multi-published researcher with a co-edited book and numerous journal and media articles to her name. She is the co-editor of the volume, *Sasinda Futhi Siselapha: Black Feminist Approaches to Cultural Studies in South Africa's Twenty-Five Years Since Democracy* (2020) and has self-published the working book for parents, *Transforming Pedagogy: Navigating the Schooling Landscape in South Africa: A Guide Book for Parents, Caregivers and Community* (2023). She is currently working on a monograph about mothering and care work as labour (forthcoming 2026).

## WORK HISTORY

**Senior Lecturer, Media Studies** 01/2023 - Current  
**Wits University** - Johannesburg, South Africa

- 20 years experience lecturing in Media Studies, Visual Arts, Visual Culture, Cultural studies at higher education institutions around the country and abroad.
- Excels at curriculum development and implementation of theory outside the classroom,
- Able to lead small and large teams through facilitation, workshops and over short and long periods of time.
- Able to work in an interdisciplinary way- both across departments as well as across industries.
- Able to implement theory through workshops on transformation, diversity, change and wellness.
- Gender specialist.
- Able to use unique approaches and skills to problem solve and find sustainable solutions to real world problems and challenges.

**Facilitator** 01/2021 - Current  
**Mother.Lab** - Johannesburg, Gauteng

- Mother.Lab is my research project. Since its inception in 2021, it has gained significant traction which is evidence of my ongoing ability to build meaningful networks,

strategic partnerships and keep building a set of narratives about and through the project.

- Workshops on diversity, care and well-being (2021 - )
- House of Complaints moving installation (2021 - )
- Collaborative work with researchers, artists, multinational organisations, e,g GISP: 2024-, Iziko SANG project 2025 -, multiple multi country grants with colleagues in the UK, USA, Germany for different collaborations.
- Training and coaching

**Consulting analyst** 06/2019 - Current  
**Consultancy and Leadership - Johannesburg, Gauteng**

- In the University:
  - Served on various committees to help shape educational and institutional policies.
  - Engaged in curriculum development.
  - Served on various university committees, contributing to overall institutional governance.
- Consulting roles:
  - UN Violence against women researcher for Women in elections Toolkit (2011)
  - School transformation consultancies (2022 - )
  - GISP project (2024 - )
  - Watch Elect (2024 SA elections)
  - Member of Governing Council (Waterford Kamhlaba 2022 - 2024)
  - Co-chair of Transformation and Diversity committee (Pridwin Preparatory School 2024 - )
  - Parenting workshops: How to Choose a School (2022 - )

**Lecturer, Media Studies** 02/2018 - 01/2023  
**Wits University - Johannesburg, South Africa**

- Course creation
- Curriculum development
- Teaching
- Supervision
- Management of groups and small and large cohorts of students

**Guest lecturer, Centre for Film and Media Studies**  
**The University of Cape Town - Cape Town, South Africa** 08/2017 - 11/2017

- Teaching film and television studies

**Course convener and guest lecturer** 08/2017 - 11/2017  
**Women's and Gender Studies Department - University of the Western Cape, South Africa**

- Teaching women's and gender studies

**Guest lecturer** 04/2017 - 07/2017  
**History of Art department - The University of Cape Town, South Africa**

- Teaching history of art

**Guest lecturer** 09/2016 - 11/2016  
**Fine art and Visual Cultures department - Rhodes**

University, South Africa

- Teaching fine art and visual cultures

---

## HOBBIES AND INTEREST

- Mom groups for Mother.Lab
- Spending time with my children
- Travel
- Reading
- Rebounding
- Ethical and local fashion

---

## EDUCATION

**PhD Film and Television Studies:** Film and TV , 2011 – 05/2016

**The University of Warwick** – Coventry, UK

Thesis Title: Films about South Africa 1987 – 2014: Representations of 'The Rainbow'.

My thesis focussed on how we can learn about post-apartheid life through representations seen in films. I titled it films about the rainbow because of the use of the term 'Rainbow Nation' in South Africa. However, this thesis allowed me to analyse various categories, experiences and identities within transitional societies that far surpasses the confines and limitations of the South African story. The thesis is an interdisciplinary array of theory and methods, drawing on the self and seeing the ordinary across our contemporary country and world.

My time in the UK also enriched me with critical skills - living with people from many different countries, engaging critically outside of my comfort zone and learning to live a different kind of life, are some of my most treasured learnings and experiences in my 4 years abroad.

- Awarded Chancellor's Award Scholarship
- Awarded Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Scholarship

**BA International Studies,** 02/2004 – 12/2006

**Stellenbosch University** – Cape Town, South Africa

**Hons Media Studies,** 02/2007 – 12/2007

**The University of the Witwatersrand** – Johannesburg, South Africa

**Master of Arts:** Cultural Studies and Media , 02/2008 – 02/2009

**The University of the Witwatersrand** – Johannesburg, South Africa

Thesis Title: A 'coloured' History, a Black Future: Contesting Dominant Representations in The Mass Media through Hip-Hop Beats

This MA dissertation explored, through the use of critical discourse and content analysis, the complexity of a community of colour in the Western Cape at a very particular time during and just after the end of apartheid. It also focused on the gendered experiences of some of these

pop culture groups and contributed to literature about racial and gendered identities in South Africa.

I was supervised by Prof Pumla Gqola in this Cultural Studies MA at the University of the Witwatersrand.

---

## **AWARDS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND HONOURS**

I was awarded the Mellon Foundation African Humanities Programme award in 2021 for postdoctoral research.

---

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Work in progress**

- Marco, D. Forthcoming monograph – anticipate 2026. *The politics of mothering and the everyday: perspectives from the global South*.
- PhD conversion to a manuscript: This is a work in progress in which I am more than halfway through converting my PhD to a manuscript. I've paused to put the mothering project first but if all goes as planned, I should have two monographs out between 2026 and 2028. This book would make a valuable contribution to the SA cultural landscape in terms of how it uses cultural, mainly filmic texts to theorise post-apartheid sensibilities and identities.

### **Books**

- Co-edited volume:  
Marco, D., Willoughby-Herard, T and Zegeye, A.(eds.) 2021. *Sasinda Futhi Siselapha: Black Feminist Approaches to Cultural Studies in South Africa's Twenty Years since 1994*. (New York: Africa World Press).
- Self-published handbook:  
Marco, D. 2023. *Transforming Pedagogy, Navigating the Schooling Landscape in South Africa: A guidebook for parents, caregivers and community*. Self-published.

### **Publications in peer-reviewed journals**

- Marco, D. under review: forthcoming, December 2024. "The politics of belonging and multiracialism: A close reflection on private primary schools and tropes of sameness, difference and the middle classes in Johannesburg" in Special issue of *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies* - The Silencing of Racial Inequality in Post-1994 South Africa.
- Marco, D and Jung, B. 2022. "De-marginalising, De-centring Film Studies in Bodies, Places and On screen" in Mistry, J and Bischoff, L (eds). Special issue of *Film Education Journal*.
- Marco, D. 2021. "Out of Place-ness in Apartheid Era Films: Fixedness and mapping memory between the city and 'elsewhere'" in special issue of *Social Dynamics*.
- Marco, D. 2018. "Vibing with Blackness: Critical Considerations of Black Panther and Exceptional Black Positionings" in *Arts* 7:85. Access online: <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-0752/7/4/85/pdf>
- Marco, D. 2011. Rhyming with "knowledge of self": The South African hip-hop scene's discourses on race and knowledge" in *Muziki*, Unisa Press, 8:2, pp. 96-106.

### **Chapters in peer-reviewed books**

- Marco, D. forthcoming 2026. "Diversity and Inclusion as tools for good education" in Englebrecht, W and Morgan, W. (eds) *Textbook on Educational Leadership and Management: a sector-wide approach*. Cape Town: Juta.
- Marco, D. 2024. "Out-of-Place-ness and the City as a Space of Relation in Apartheid-Era Cinema" in Himmelman, N., Moji, P and Mupotsa, D. (eds.) *Cinematic Imaginaries of the African City*. Oxon: Routledge.
- Marco, D., Willoughby-Herard, T., Zegeye, A. and Roman, S. forthcoming, 2024. "On Writing *Sasinda Futhi Siselapha: Black Feminist Approaches to Cultural Studies in South Africa's Twenty-Six Years Since 1994*," *Conversational Bridges in African Feminisms: Theory, Praxis, Solidarities*, edited by Polo Moji, Kharnita Muhammad, Mandisa Haarhoff, and Aika Swai, Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council Press.
- Marco, D. 2019. "Narratives of Pain, Apology and Silence in Filmic Representations of Forgiveness: The South African Rainbow" in Jung, Berenike and Bruzzi, Stella (eds.) *Beyond the Rhetoric of Pain*. London: Routledge.
- Marco, D. 2021. "'I'm not leaving, I'm not afraid': Sexual violence and rape in  
Marco, D., Willoughby-Herard, T and Zegeye, A.(eds.) *Sasinda Futhi Siselapha: Black Feminist Approaches to Cultural Studies in South Africa's Twenty Years since 1994*. New York: Africa World Press.

#### **Review essays in accredited academic journals**

- Marco, D. 2017. I, *Afrikaner* film review in *African Studies Review* (60: 1), pp. 245 – 247. 2017.
- Marco, D. 2014. *Sweetheart* film review in *African Studies Review* (57: 2), pp. 243 – 245. 2014.

#### **Creative writing and research**

- 'House of Complaints', *Wherewithall* online creative arts publication (2023)
- Mother.Lab 4-part curated series part of the UJ Centre for Race, Gender and Class international summer school: *Black Being Well* (Johannesburg, November – December 2023)
- House of Complaints installation part of *Art after Baby* exhibition (Johannesburg, November 2023)
- Part of collective awarded Social Impact Arts Prize for research and arts for Orange River Project (2022)
- *Mama, can you dream with me: a colouring book inspired by dreamscapes of mine and yours across all our lifetimes* (2019) The Point of Order, Wits University.
- *TheDaily Geba* exhibition catalogue part of the Food Cultures and Politics International Festival (held at District Six Museum), Women and Gender Studies department, UWC. 2017
- Curator for exhibition as part of the Food Cultures and Politics Festival: *Yearning for Taste* (2017, District Six Museum, Cape Town)

---

## **MEDIA AND CREATIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS (PAST 5 YEARS)**

- Watch.Elect Media Campaign 2024 (SA elections)
- 'Tiny Letters for Mothers': Global Data Visualisation, January 2024 - ongoing

- 'Tiny Letters: The post-partum body as home: a safe room in the house' – *Burning Down the House* symposium, April 2024.
- 'For Wholeness: Black Being Well: 'Emergent Transformations – who shapes the world?' – a discussion with Cathy-Mae Karelse as part of the Centre for Race, Gender and Class Summer School, November - December 2023.
- House of Complaints, ongoing installation (2021 - )
- 'Mother as Murderer?': Op-ed in *Sunday Times*, 20 August 2023.
- Radio interview about post-partum mood disorders and filicide (Cape Talk, August 2023)
- Television interview about mothers and labour (Newzroom Afrika, August 2023)
- 'Exhaustion, Mothering, Care', Power Talks, Johannesburg, September 2022.
- 'Walls as barriers, walls as speculative, walls as home: Gladys Mgudlandlu's wall murals and how the domestic can become a mother's lab', *When Rainclouds Gather* symposium, Cape Town, October 2022.
- 'De-marginalising, De-centring Film Studies in Bodies, Places and on screen', Film Education joint keynote with Berenike Jung, 2022.
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference paper, SCMS online, March 2021.
- Time of the Writer panel, March 2021.
- Online roundtable, University of California, Irvine, February 2020.
- 'Race in SA cinema' part of the Arts and Rethinking the subject panel at the France/ SA science convention, December 2019, CSIR, Pretoria.
- 'Mama, Can You Dream with Me?' Interactive reading and play for children as part of 'The Rapture Institute', October 2019, The Point of Order, Wits University.

---

## REFERENCES

References available upon request.