



INTERVENTIONS IN CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

2023 SEMINAR SERIES

Dr Thomas Cousins

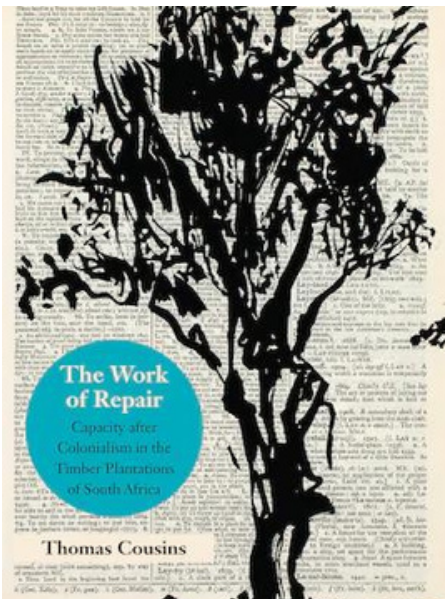
Clarendon-Lienhardt Associate Professor, University of Oxford



Cousins is an anthropologist of southern Africa with a particular interest in health, labour, and kinship, especially nutrition and pharmaceuticals and their attendant forms of value and life. His fieldwork to date has been in South Africa on topics including global health surveillance, welfare, communications technologies, and zoonosis. His book, titled *The Work of Repair: Amandla and Capacity in the Timber Plantations of South Africa*, was published by Fordham University Press in 2023.

*The Work of Repair: Capacity after
Colonialism in the Timber Plantations of
South Africa*

Discussants: Dr Shaheed Tayob & Dr Matthew Wingfield



The Work of Repair is a fine-grained exploration of the relationships between laborers in the timber plantations of KwaZulu-Natal, and the historical decompositions and reinventions of the milieu of those livelihoods and lives. Offering a fresh approach to the existential, ethical and political stakes of ethnography from and of late liberal South Africa, the book attends to urgent questions of postapartheid life: the fate of employment; the role of the state in providing welfare and access to treatment; the regulation of popular curatives; the queering of kinship; and the future of custom and its territories. Through detailed descriptions, Cousins explicates the important and fragile techniques that constitute the work of repair: the effort to augment one's capacity in a way that draws on, acknowledges, and reimagines the wounds of history, keeping open the possibility of a future through and with others.



**Thursday 8th June, 13:00-14:30 (SAST)
Room 401, Arts and Social Sciences Building, SU**