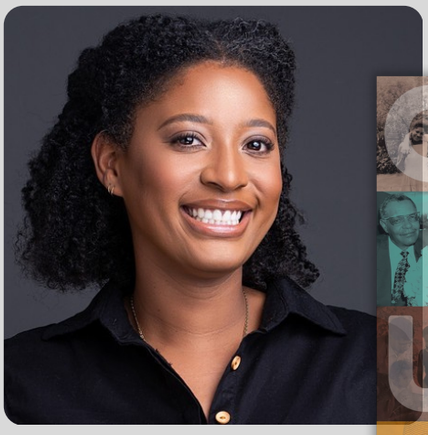
STAIRWAY TO SOUTH AFRICA SERIES

APRIL EDITION



Lynsey Ebony Chutel
Reporter
The New York Times

COLOURED:
How Classification Became Culture

Monday, 29th April 2024

5:00 PM South African Standard Time
(10 PM ICT | 5 PM CET | 11 AM EDT | 8 AM PDT)

Zoom Registration Link:
https://cnrs.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIrc-mtpzMtGdfEaRQkekNJx__fdNuzjGCb#/registration

Overview

Ms. Chutel will discuss her book (co-written with Tessa Dooms) "Coloured: How Classification Became Culture".

Coloured as an ethnicity and racial demographic is intertwined in the creation of the South Africa we have today. Yet often, Coloured communities are disdained as people with no clear heritage or culture — 'not being black enough or white enough.'

Coloured challenges this notion and presents a different angle to that narrative. It delves into the history of Coloured people as descendants of indigenous Africans and a people whose identity was shaped by colonisation, slavery, and the racial political hierarchy it created. Although rooted in a difficult history, this book is also about the culture that Coloured communities have created for themselves through food, music, and shared lived experiences in communities such as Eldorado Park, Eersterus, and Wentworth. Coloured culture is an act of defiance and resilience.

Two excerpts from the book:

- Awê! Ma se kind: Finding our mother tongues

- Colouring outside the laws... and why Trevor Noah isn't coloured

About Ms. Chutel

Lynsey Ebony Chutel is a journalist and writer. She is a reporter for the New York Times. She has worked for South African and international news outlets, along with stints in scriptwriting for an international Emmy-nominated news satire show. She holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and a master's degree in international relations from the University of the Witwatersrand.

About the Stairway to South Africa Series

Stairway to South Africa is part of RIM's Global Dialogues Speaker Series. It consists of monthly online events leading to the 2025 RIM Research Forum in South Africa. Each event discusses race and markets in the context of South Africa or the African continent. Learn more @ https://www.rimnetwork.net/stairway-to-sa

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