



‘Losing the Plot’: Observations on postapartheid writing

by
Leon de Kock

**Tuesday 22 November
18.00–19.00**

LT3 Kramer Building,
Middle Campus, UCT

R80 (full fee); R40 (staff)*

ENQUIRIES 021 650 2888

ems@uct.ac.za

Among the features that distinguish writing after 1994 are a strong turn towards creative nonfiction and genre fiction (crime writing in particular) as part of a more general practice of social detection in the midst of a widespread sense that Mandela’s ‘silent revolution’ has lost the plot. In narrative terms, too, ‘plot’ has been reconfigured in two ways: incident-heavy nonfiction and genre fiction

play up plot, while literary fiction goes the other way, preferring less consciously imposed configurations of event and meaning. This is done so that the press of ‘unplottably’ wayward trends can make their own imprint(s) on imaginatively recast stories in post-transition times.

In this lecture Leon de Kock argues for a range of salient features in postapartheid writing as a distinct category that is both very similar to,

and very different from, the writing that came before 1994, or ‘SA Lit’.

Leon de Kock, Professor Emeritus at the University of Stellenbosch, is a literary scholar and prizewinning translator as well as a poet and novelist. His new book, published by Wits University Press, is *Losing the Plot: Crime, Reality, and Fiction in Postapartheid Writing*.

* As a partially self-funding entity, we are obliged to charge a small fee for extension lectures. These are fixed at Summer School rates.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Centre for Extra-Mural Studies
www.summerschool.uct.ac.za