

BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

The Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS)
cordially invites you to the virtual book launch of

Sol T. Plaatje: a life in letters

Edited by **Brian Willan** and **Sabata-mpho Mokae**

Published by HiPSA (Historical Publications Southern Africa)
<https://hipsa.org.za/publication/sol-t-plaatje-a-life-in-letters/>

Sol T. Plaatje is one of South Africa's best known writers and political leaders, famous as a founder and first secretary of the African National Congress and as author of *Native Life in South Africa* and his novel, *Mhudi*. In this new book, editors Brian Willan and Sabata-mpho Mokae bring together a fascinating collection of Plaatje's letters, most of them published here for the first time. They include letters he wrote in both English and Setswana (reproduced with English translations), and they shed new light on his many struggles, for example in keeping his newspapers going, and on his relationships with a variety of his contemporaries – the Molema family in Mahikeng, with politicians and administrators, white liberal sympathizers, African American leaders he met on his trip to the US. Taken together the letters provide an invaluable insight into the private and public lives of one of South Africa's most iconic figures, illuminating at the same time many key episodes of South Africa's early twentieth century history.

DATE • 23 June 2021

TIME • 17:00- 19:00 (SAST)

RSVP on <https://forms.gle/VTg6gdzplpjBQ5SA> to receive the Zoom details.

Email vanessak@uj.ac.za if you encounter any problems.

Brian Willan is an Extraordinary Professor at Sol Plaatje University and North West University, and Senior Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of English, Rhodes University.



Sabata-mpho Mokae teaches Creative Writing in African Languages at the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley.



Sol T. Plaatje

A life in letters



Edited by Brian Willan and
Sabata-mpho Mokae

HiPSA