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UCT conference to examine Labour Studies in 21st Century

New Trends in Labour Studies: New Workplaces, Communities and Livelihoods UCT Upper Campus, Leslie Commerce Bldg, LT 2A, 09h00 to 17h00, 1-3 December 2010

The University of Cape Town is hosting a three-day conference beginning today, 1 December 2010, titled: New Trends in Labour Studies: New Workplaces, Communities and Livelihoods. The conference is hosted by the Land and Livelihood Project in the Sociology Department at UCT, in association with Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust.

One of the conveners is UCT sociology Professor Ari Sitas, who is heading the government's team to develop a humanities charter.

"We are looking to explore the nature of work and livelihoods in the 21st century in the context of emerging powers," said Professor Sitas. "For instance, how has globalisation shaped new patterns of migration? What new alliances have emerged in response to global challenges? This is meant to be a relatively informal gathering of colleagues working in the field of labour studies, industrial sociology and associated disciplines, to discuss current work and future trajectories."

Thirty-four delegates – mostly academics from higher education institutions and research bodies – are expected to attend. Most of the delegates are South African, but participants are also coming from India, Cyprus, Germany, Sweden, the UK and Ireland.

At the end of Wednesday's session Professor Sitas will launch his new book, The Mandela Decade, in the foyer of the Leslie Social Science Building.

Journalists are welcome to attend any of the sessions and interview participants. Please open the attached pdf for a schedule of conference sessions.

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