

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY

# MILLERCOMM2018

**Isabel Hofmeyr**

Professor of African Literatures,  
University of the Witwatersrand

## A History of the Indian Ocean World In Five Objects

**Thursday  
September 7, 2017  
5:30pm**

Auditorium (room 62)  
Krannert Art Museum  
500 East Peabody Drive, Champaign  
**University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign**

*Hosted by:*  
Krannert Art Museum

*In conjunction with:*  
Center for African Studies  
Center for Global Studies  
Center for South Asian and Middle  
Eastern Studies  
Department of Anthropology  
Department of Asian American Studies  
Department of English  
Department of History  
Illinois Program for Research  
in the Humanities  
International and Area Studies Libraries  
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts  
Program in Comparative & World Literature  
School of Art + Design Visitors Committee  
Spurlock Museum

*Series support provided by:*  
Office of the Chancellor  
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Access  
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for  
Student Affairs  
Center for Advanced Study  
George A. Miller Endowment  
Ledyard R. Tucker Fund  
Peggy Harris Memorial Fund  
The Council of Deans  
The David Gottlieb Memorial Foundation  
The Graduate College



Professor Hofmeyr will provide an accessible history of the Indian Ocean world by focusing on five objects: a tombstone in Yemen; a piece of fabric from inland southern Africa; a ship, HMS Columbine; a world-famous book (Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj*); and a jelly fish. Each object will illuminate a set of transregional networks while

throwing light on the forms of knowledge and intellectual creativity that transoceanic mobility and connectivity make possible.

Professor Hofmeyr has been invited in conjunction with the exhibition *World on the Horizon: Swahili Arts Across the Indian Ocean* opening at Krannert Art Museum on August 31, 2017.

*World on the Horizon* will be the first major traveling exhibition dedicated to the arts of the Swahili coast and their long and enduring connections to eastern and central Africa and the port cities of the Indian Ocean world.



For background information, please  
consult [cas.illinois.edu](http://cas.illinois.edu) or 217-333-6729