



“Our daily bread through agriculture and ‘development’: the voice of ubu-ntu”

A GIFT FOR MOGOBE RAMOSE

**Created by the audience at
Wageningen University,
January 30, 2023**



A moment of contemplation



Take a moment to reflect about what you've heard

If you were to ask a question to prof Ramose, what would you ask him?

Write your question or thought on a post-it

about 2-3 minutes



A shared gift for Mogobe Ramose

If you like, you can add a few words to Mogobe Ramose on your post-it.
It can be anything, a word of thanks, a comment, a question, a concern, or an insight.

When you walk outside this room after the session, put your post-it on the wall



Do you think that the challenge of climate change might push mankind to embrace a philosophy like that of ubuntu? – Thank you, Ramose, for opening my eyes and showing me what true development should be.

Thank you for the beautiful lecture

Thank you very much for inspiring insights and stories.
Lots of food for thought! Eira

How can we proceed in tackling the challenges of capitalism and ontological fundamentalism or, more concretely, abolish hunger?

You have been an inspiration beyond imagination. Do not be afraid about what will happen when you are gone, some of us have determined to take on the baton

Out of curiosity of one's story: what is an alternative to "Where are you from?": "What is your story?"

How far does essential equality stretch? All humans, all animals, all living beings? If the latter, can we avoid living at the expense of others (eating bread -> killing grain)? – Thank you for feed us, with wisdom 😊

Thank you for your inspiring words!

I wonder if 'daily bread' is the right metaphor for a celebration of our shared humanity. Is not the history of wheat linked to conquest/domination as well as obesity, as opposed to say, cassava or millet?

Thanks for your thoughts and inspiration, prof. Mogobe Ramose! We learn so much to create a peaceful and inclusive world!

The destruction of individual existence – by historical narrative.

Thank you for your inspiring talk.

What do you think about class struggle to defeat capitalism/ontological fundamentalism?

How do we make everyone understand that we are all on the same side? Are we all on the same side? Thank you!

If development is political (as you have argued), should we as development economists become involved in politics? And how?

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn!

Dear prof. Ramose. It was an honour to follow your lecture today in real-life. Thank you for this inspiring lecture, I enjoyed it! Wish you well.

It will take time to let your words sink in, but you taught me something valuable and life changing.

Thank you for the enlightening journey along.

'anec'dotes and philosophical notes. Oneness among human beings and with living organisms (animals). What role can music play?

Can storytelling help us to make man again the measure of all things? In which other ways can we also express this value to each other?

“Decolonization is not a metaphor”. What practical first steps towards recognition of ontologies/epistemologies in our university/development studies specifically. Ontological fundamentalism is the issue. Let’s speak our languages and ontologies freely, purposely, deliberately. Epistemic love = facing up to the truth no matter the consequences.

Thank you! Fellow child of Mother Earth.

The likes of dr. Nkrumah, Lumumba and Sankara in positions of leadership are dwindling in Africa. Do you believe there is any hope of a time where such visionary leadership will ever be seen again?

How can we prevent the big birds taking all the food? I agree that freedom should not be limited to the big birds. But how...?

Thank you for the insights and the inspiration. Thank you for sharing, I will take your valuable lessons with me.

Dear Prof. Ramose. Thank you very much for the inspiring lecture. I am inspired to learn more about ubuntu.

Thank you so much! It was a thought-provoking presentation. As an international student, although I didn’t understand your pre, “where do you come from. This question really inspired me. Thank you!

How can we eliminate these structures of inequality in trying to make the world a better place/ more equal place? For if new technologies for producing food or improving industries that type of education is also so often unequal. How to more listen to each other, make exchanging ideas reciprocal? – I love how you speak from your heart in the story you told us.

Thank you for your wise words and the wisdom you bring in your intellectual work.

Do you believe it is possible to incorporate the values of ubuntu into the current economic system or is radical change of the likes of 'degrown' first necessary?

Thanks for making time to visit us and give us new insights.

Grateful for being here today. Thank you for the many lessons learned.

Thank you so much prof Ramose for your engaging and inspiring talk.

Dear professor Ramose, thank you so much for your inspiring lecture, especially the parts about the birds I really enjoyed.

You talked about how freedom and equality are opposites of each other. However, I feel like equality is essential to freedom, as equality fights oppression. What are your thoughts on this. Thank you for sharing your great wisdom with us.

What is key in preventing to unknowingly engage in or reinforce epistemic injustice?

How do we best reach people around the world with the message of ubuntu? Thank you for your inspirational words.

Thank you – ubuntu [in a heart shape]

Thank you for the beautiful and inspiring words! May your legacy help us to move toward a world for all beings at all times and places!

I thank you for warming our ears with your stories about the bird friends and reminder to seek out of the meaning of the donkey.

Practically how can we contribute to the creation of oneness instead of otherness? Thank you! It was very inspiring

In light of what you told us, how do you like your bread?

Dear Professor Ramose, What do we need, what is necessary (in the field of food provision) to go from his-story to our story? Can we change the narrative that is so ingrained in (Western) culture? And thank you immensely for bringing hard but necessary truth (and thus hope) to our lives.

Thank you for the lecture and for your time. Representation of Black people is very important. So thank you for that!

Where do we belong? Since many years (even centuries), humans have been aware that we all come from the Earth... in essence, our Mother. If we come from our Mother, and our roots are connected... where does the Beauty in our difference come from? From just another man...

When I visited Zambia for my research into traditional plant use, it felt to me that I could not really give something back of the same value as they gave to me. What could I have done?

Can hunger really be solved with money, or is it much more complex than that? Money is just numbers. Money does not make rain fall, or create fertile land, or prevent disease, or create/generate (workers) resources needed to produce more food. We are dependent on what we have in the world. We can only choose how to distribute it.

Do you have an idea on how we make a change in practice? How to change his story into our story? What can we do? Thank you for this amazing and interesting talk.

Thank you so much for the inspiring words. They will be with me and influence me in my future outlooks and actions.

Thank you. You have inspired me.

WHERE, In what space do we find ontological equality come closest? – Thank you for making us THINK HARDER about these important questions.

Thank you. Your presence was a gift to all of us. It was beautiful to hear and see you speak in person. And I am excited to explore more of your wisdom. Glory to the land, to life and to our mothers! Love.

How can we give more space to natural feelings and stories (donkey, birds) in this Western and scientifically dominated world? Within different audiences? To let other world views be taken more serious?

Dear professor, thank you for your words and inspiration!

How can we open the door to rewriting his-story to our story and include the divine metaphysical aspect of existence in contemporary science?

Is there still any space for speaking of 'development' if we embrace ubuntu and ontological equality? (i.e. can we change its meaning or is the word too damaging/polluted?)

"I am because we are". Does "we" include animals, plants, land and other non-human beings? If yes, what does it mean for ecological ethics?

Can ubuntu be politicized in Europe by perhaps combining it with standpoint epistemology?

Can 'where do you come from' be used to understand and connect across difference, rather than to Other? Thank you for sharing your time and wisdom with us today.

Thank you for the nice, inspiring lecture, my friend. And that you came all the way to Wageningen.

Thanks for being an inspiration.

Do you believe the end of this kind of 'development' is possible?

Thank you. I want to learn more philosophy to be able to make good choices in my studies.

Dear prof. Mogobe Ramose, Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts, brightness, sharpness, and love. All the best to you!

Thanks for the insight in how you view life. I was inspired by your critical thinking and insights in the big questions, but also the smaller things.

If the bail out of banks money would have gone to FAO, do you think FAO would have had the right approach to ending hunger??

Thank you for inspiring us and helping us remember where we are from.

Thank for the lecture and sharing knowledge. My question was related to the 'how'. Always we think about how to change things fast, but after the answer; I realised the 'how' is slow, we just need to keep the goal in mind 😊

What should the main focus be freedom or equality? Thank you for sharing your wisdom!

What books would you recommend us to read? THANK YOU

Thank you for your clear and inspiring words! Susanne.

Where and how can there be spaces for dialogue and 'joining forces' for ubuntu and e.g. buen vivir? Thank you

for an inspiring talk and good luck and perseverance for keeping sharing your message!

If development is laid upon the subjugated by the subjugator, what should be the reaction of the subjugated? Your words are deep and inspiring.

Thank you deeply professor Ramose. Thank you for your light, your wisdom, your generosity.

You spoke very profoundly about the influence of colonial domination on the ways in which the 'bread' of the world is distributed. What can the history of 'dominated' societies prior to colonial context tell us about this question?

What can we do about the current existing fundamental ontological difference? – Inspiring how you use the language in your presentation to let us hear more than words.

Respect for non-human beings. Humanity as center of development, not money. All of us are the same. How do you institutionalize these values? How to survive the mainstream value? Have a great day!! Thanks a lot!

The statements about eradicating hunger are made taking into account industrialized agriculture, modern economy, etc. How can we assess them and use them in our arguments? - Thank you for the lecture.

Thank for inspiring and changing my view on the term development. Best wishes.

Sawubona prof. Ramose. Thanks for the inspiring lecture. I think it's very hopeful to keep sharing ideas and thoughts. Thank you and regards.

Thank you. May you help us with your wisdom.

Thank you! [with birds drawing]

Should we forget freedom and focus on equality? Thanks for sharing your wisdom.

What question would you have liked the man in the bookshop to have asked you instead? Thank you, prof.

Thank you for the inspiring lecture. As you name 'Africa under protest', I was wondering should Africa modernize it's ... in order to become fully liberated?

Will we ever get to a point where we won't define ourself based on our difference? Thanks for sharing your thoughts.

What is your vision on a 'good' development like the Green Revolution? Thank you so much for the enlightening lecture!!

What is the main message you have for Western education institutions?

We are equal. We are family. Then what is my individual agency? To listen, learn, observe. All scars deserve our attention. But is there balance between wisdoms?

As usual very engaging seminar and thought provoking ideas from the Prof. I resonate with the discussion on the wests hegemonic development discourse which has done

little in 'alleviating poverty" e.t.c. However, I wondered what the Profs take is on South Africa's own development agenda in the rest of the continent e.g Lesotho Moz and others. How would he theorise that?

Highly appreciative of you sharing your time, energy and wisdom with us. Will be reminded of your story every time I encounter birds. Excited for continued collaboration between you and Birgit (and WUR generally). Siyabonga kakhulu!!

THANK YOU!

