

## NITheCS COLLOQUIUM: Discovering African Cultural Astronomy

Dr Jarita Holbrook (University of Edinburgh and  
University of the Western Cape)

**DATE:** Tuesday, 11 June 2024 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

**VENUES:**

- Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University
- Online

### ABSTRACT

Cultural Astronomy is an interdisciplinary field spanning ancient times to the present and focused on regions around the world. It engages with questions of how humans view and interpret the sky? How the sky appears in artistic expressions? How the sky is part of their environment? Part of studying cultural astronomy is learning the sky and its daily, monthly and annual changes and how these are depended upon latitude. Another part is situating sky knowledge within specific cultures. This presentation focuses on the many ways that astronomy is found in culture among African indigenous peoples.

### BIOGRAPHY

Jarita Holbrook (they/them/their) is a researcher at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and in the department of Science, Technology & Innovation Studies at the University of Edinburgh. They hold an honorary affiliation in Physics & Astronomy at the University of the Western Cape. They hold degrees in physics, astronomy and astrophysics from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), San Diego State University and the University of California, Santa Cruz. Post-PhD, Dr Holbrook transitioned into the social studies of science via postdocs at the Center for the Cultural Studies of Science, Technology & Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.



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