THE PREMISE

Nobody signs a delay.

A refusal has an author, a date and a reason, and can therefore be challenged. A delay has none of these. This Assembly treats waiting not as empty time but as power distributed *as* time: one party's life is suspended pending another's decision, and only the one who does not decide feels it as duration.

There are two waitings, formally identical and politically opposite — waiting imposed and waiting chosen. Telling them apart is the day's task. So the day does not only discuss waiting. It administers it.

HOUSE RULE

There is no question time.

No question is asked from the floor. None is answered today.

Write your question on a numbered slip and hand it in at the desk — or post it yourself on the debate wall (code overleaf). It is marked RECEIVED and waits there for the presenter's answer.

No question is refused.

SEVEN DEVICES BETWEEN THE PAPERS

I The door — the start that passes
II The ticket — questions filed, not asked
III The form — tea by application
IV The silent queue — a door marked OFFICE
V The canteen & the wrong clock
VI The hearing — judgment reserved
VII The chair & the pending wall

YOUR PART

Nobody only watches.

Your ticket is not a souvenir; it is a part. At the door you draw a number and take the position you registered for — not a costume, but a place in the relation of waiting.

1 **The people who wait**

You hold a number. You file the form. At the hearing you speak first.

2 **Their friends and family**

You wait with someone, and on their behalf. You may ask for someone else. Never for yourself.

3 **The government officials**

You staff the slow desk and hold the pen. At the hearing you answer last — in the passive voice only.

THE DEBATE WALL
File a question · read the answers
deferralwithoutdenial.org/debate

HOLD A PLACE
Audience registration
deferralwithoutdenial.org/take-part

Care. The waiting is staged, never punitive: nobody is humiliated, and you may step out of a position at any time. Allergen and religious dietary needs declared at registration are met with labelled alternatives. One paper concerns unidentified human remains and searching families; no graphic images are shown.

Camera. The day is filmed for a documentary. Filming consent is separate and optional; no-camera markers are honoured.

Convenor Dr Bo Lyu · **Facilitator** Prof. Catherine Du Toit · Modern Foreign Languages
An Assembly of the Stellenbosch University Graduate School · Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences · 2026 · bo@sun.ac.za

Stellenbosch University
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Universiteit

HOUSE PROGRAMME

Nobody signs *a delay.*

Waiting: Deferral Without Denial

An interdisciplinary Assembly on waiting as power distributed as time — eight papers, seven devices, one hearing.

WHEN Monday 9 November 2026 · 09:00 – ±17:00
WHERE Lecture Hall, Department of Journalism
HOUSE Graduate School · Arts & Social Sciences

THE RUNNING ORDER

The day

09:00	*Prologue · The door*	Will begin shortly. Draw your number.
09:10	Opening frame	Waiting imposed and waiting chosen
	I · A PERMIT BESIDE A NOVEL	
09:20	Waiting in administrative & immigration law	June Luna
09:50	Racing against time / waiting en route	Dr Bo Lyu
10:20	*The ticket*	Questions are filed, not asked
10:35	*Tea · The form*	An Application to Be Heard
	II · A LOOM BESIDE A FACE	
11:00	I wait for "Noman"	Dr Louise-Mari Muller
11:30	Waiting to be named	Dr Elysia Greenway
12:00	*The silent queue*	
12:10	*Lunch · The canteen of deferral*	Trays by lot. Dishes by number.
	III · A WIND FARM BESIDE A GALAXY	
13:10	The infrastructure does not wait	Dr Stephanie Borchardt
13:40	Wait in the Universe; Wait and chances in life	Prof. Yin-Zhe Ma
14:10	*The register*	Every status is PENDING
14:20	*Tea · The wrong clock*	
	IV · A BROKEN BOWL BESIDE A LOVE DEFERRED	
14:40	To wait or not to wait?	Jaco du Plooy
15:10	Love deferred	Prof. Catherine Du Toit
15:40	*The adjournment*	
15:50	*The hearing · "Deferral is denial"*	
16:25	*Closing · The chair*	
16:40	*Epilogue · The pending wall*	

Ends ±17:00. Papers ±30 minutes each. Times in gold italics are waiting, staged. All times are provisional — fittingly.

THE COMPANY · MORNING

JUXTAPOSITION I

A permit beside a novel — waiting imposed by the state, and the home always still on the way.

I · 09:20

Waiting in administrative & immigration law

June Luna

The Home Affairs file that is never refused and never granted: visas, permanent residence and citizenship as lived deferral.

Admitted Attorney of the High Court · June Luna Immigration Attorneys.

II · 09:50

Racing against time / waiting en route

Dr Bo Lyu

Ha Jin's *Waiting* and the diasporic home never reached; Wang Jibing's delivery rider — a man not made to wait but forbidden to.

Lecturer in Chinese, Modern Foreign Languages, SU · convenor. PhD (UCT), MA (Wits), LLB (Stellenbosch).

JUXTAPOSITION II

A loom beside a face — those who stay behind, waiting for someone neither returned nor declared lost.

III · 11:00

I wait for "Noman"

Dr Louise-Mari Muller

Homer's Penelope and the heroism of staying behind: the 'waiting woman' and her tactics of delay, read with Ndebele's *The Cry of Winnie Mandela* and Elisabeth Eybers.

Lecturer and researcher, Ancient Studies, SU. PhD (2026): "Scenes of departure: Women on desire and responsibility in Homer, Vergil, and Elisabeth Eybers".

IV · 11:30

Waiting to be named

Dr Elysia Greenway

Unidentified remains, searching families and the time between. "The delay has no individual author, yet its consequences are carried by unidentified people, searching families, and those left without the power to end it."

Postdoctoral researcher, VIZ.Lab, Visual Arts, SU; core member of Science for Justice in Forensic Human Identification; forensic anthropologist within ViSUN, SU's Victim Identification Unit.

THE COMPANY · AFTERNOON

JUXTAPOSITION III

A wind farm beside a galaxy — waiting beyond the human scale.

V · 13:10

The infrastructure does not wait

Dr Stephanie Borchardt

Managed incompleteness and ecological harm in South Africa's renewable energy frontier. *Ons tel voëltjies* — we count little birds: in Loeriesfontein, waiting has become a wage.

Postdoctoral research fellow, Sociology & Social Anthropology, SU · DSTI/NRF SARChI Chair in the Sociology of Land, Environment & Sustainable Development. Energy justice, governance, renewable energy infrastructure.

VI · 13:40

Wait in the Universe; Wait and chances in life

Prof. Yin-Zhe Ma

Light-travel delay and the early universe: when "too long to wait" is written into physics. Later, a mathematical model of why most of a life is waiting, and of what one does to prepare for the chances.

Professor of Physics, Stellenbosch University.

JUXTAPOSITION IV

A broken bowl beside a love deferred — waiting chosen, and what it costs.

VII · 14:40

To wait or not to wait?

Jaco du Plooy

'Patience' as a form of self-denial in Jeanne Benameur's *La patience des traces* (2022): could too much patience turn into self-inflicted suffering?

Junior lecturer and module coordinator, French, Modern Foreign Languages, SU; also teaches at the Military Academy, Saldanha. MA in comparative literature.

VIII · 15:10

Love deferred

Prof. Catherine Du Toit

Henri-Pierre Roché's second novel: deferral and nascent love.

Modern Foreign Languages, SU · facilitator of the Assembly.

15:50 · THE HEARING

"Deferral is denial"

The Assembly puts its own title on trial, and the motion is put to the whole room. Those who wait speak first; the officials last, in the passive voice. The presenters are witnesses. Judgment is reserved.