

# MALEBO SEPHODI

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malebo sephodi is a South African storyteller and independent consultant based in Germany. Renowned for her ability to disrupt, challenge and reimagine narratives across fields, sephodi's work spans African feminism, generational healing, decolonisation, digital technology and climate justice. Her storytelling is both an offering and a practice, deeply collaborative, rooted in lived experience and transformational impact. She has received multiple awards and honours for her contributions to literature, academia and public discourse, earning recognition as an influential voice of her generation.

A lifelong advocate for community, sephodi founded Soul Ova (2005–2012) and its mentorship branch Lady Leader (2008–2020). These initiatives created critical healing spaces, empowerment and growth for women and vulnerable communities, addressing gender-based violence, mental health, social justice and personal development through workshops, advocacy and co-creation.

sephodi is the author of the award-winning book *Miss Behave*, a defining text in African feminist literature that added to the feminist conversation around autonomy, resistance and self-definition. Beyond the page, her voice has resonated across media platforms. She co-hosted a prime-time show on SABC1, stood in as a host on Power FM, was part of the formation of a feminist radio and was featured across major radio, television and print media, using these platforms to centre accessible, necessary dialogue.

Her interdisciplinary academic path spans International Relations, gender studies and digital technology. She founded and led the Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) at the University of Johannesburg. She supported doctoral and early-career researchers in an African network at the University of Cape Town, Information Systems Department. She serves on the SICSS Advisory Council and is an associate at Tyarisha, Centre of Excellence in Digital Governance, Wits School of Governance. She was a 2020 Writing Fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, a 2023–2024 non-resident fellow at the Institution for Pan-African Thought and Conversation and the 2023–2024 Digital Dialogues moderator for the African Civic Tech Innovation Network and International Civic Society in Berlin.

Sephodi's climate justice storytelling, through projects like *Harvest Moon* and *When is Now* with Agam Agenda, highlights her commitment to nature as a site of remembrance and revolution. She understands healing as a return to self, land and community.

Now based in Germany, sephodi continues to expand her work internationally through writing, photography and public speaking, maintaining an unwavering commitment to sacred storytelling and the pursuit of collective freedom.

malebo sephodi's legacy is one of quiet yet profound influence, a reminder that ideas rooted in radical compassion and courage can reshape the world.