



## NEWSLETTER

03 February 2020

### Achievements and Celebrations

We begin a busy year of 2020 with celebrations!

*Neotestamentica*, the international (ISI-listed) scholarly journal of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa, published a Festschrift honouring the person and work of **Prof Lilly (SJ) Nortjé-Meyer**, for her feminist approach to the reading of biblical texts, which includes gender-critical hermeneutics as well as topics like sexuality and homosexuality. Her impact has been felt both in scholarship and society, where she has been a vocal advocate for the liberation of oppressed groups, including women, homosexuals and, more recently, animals. Like her own research, the contributions to Lilly's Festschrift engage New Testament texts critically to promote equality and improve society.

### International Connections

In early December Professor **Farid Esack** attended an international Consultation on Mission in the Context of Crisis and Marginalization in Alexandria, Egypt. The consultation was hosted by the World Communion of Reformed Churches on whose Advisory Council Professor Esack serves.

The one-week Bi-Annual UJ Critical Muslims Summer School on Islam, Decolinality, and Liberation theology was successfully held in Cape Town from Wed 8th – Mon 13th of January at the Center for Book in Cape Town. The nearly forty participants came from about twenty odd countries. Some of the international speakers included Professors Ramon Grossfuegel (Berkeley, California), Salman Sayed (Leeds), Farid al-Atas (Singapore) and Suad Abdul-Khabeer (Michigan) while some of the local speakers included Professor Sa`diyya Shaikh, Dr Fatima Shaikh and our own UJ PhD student, **Alex Abbasi** (who was also the Summer School's Convener) and, lecturers, **Dr Mathee and Professor Farid Esack**.

### Latest Publications

**Ashraf Kunnummal**, a PhD Graduate from our department and **Professor Esack** co-published an article in *Religion & Theology* 26 (2019) 282–309. Seeking the Muslim Gandhi - Asghar Ali Engineer and the Shifting Positions on 11 September 2001 Debates on Islam and Violence. This paper examines the question of Islam and its relationship to violence in Muslim reformer Asghar Ali Engineer's pre- and post-September 11th works in response to the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC.

**Nche, G.C.** 2020: Beyond Spiritual Focus: Climate Change Awareness, Role Perception, and Action among Church Leaders in Nigeria. *Wea. Climate Soc.*, 12, 149–169, <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-19-0001.1>

**Nortje-Meyer, Lilly (SJ).** 2020. The Logos as "Flesh" in John 1:14 and 6:51–57: Formulating a Christology for the Liberation of Animals. *Humanarchy, Neotestamentica* 53.3 (2019), pp. 535–555

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### Public lectures and seminars

New year, New plans, New mind! you are welcome to listen and discuss!

### PUBLIC LECTURES ON BLACK THEOLOGY

Postdoctoral fellow **Dr Hlulani Mdingi** will present a three-lecture series on the topic "Black theology is not cheap".

Dates	Time	Venue
19/2/2020	13:00-15:00	Religion Studies Seminar Room
04/03/2020	13:00-15:00	Religion Studies Seminar Room
11/03/2020	13:00-15:00	Religion Studies Seminar Room

For more information please see the attached poster.

### PUBLIC SEMINARS ON CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIETY

The Department is holding four public seminars that examine the role of Christianity, Christian communities and/or Christian theologies in society.

Dates	Time	Themes	Presenters	Venue
18/3/2020	13:00-14:30	Ethnographic theologies in Afrophobic Johannesburg	<b>Dr Elina Hankela</b> <b>Ms Nishimwe, C</b>	Religion Studies Room 610
15/4/2020	13:00-14:30	What does Christian theology have to do with 4IR?	<b>Prof Frahm-Arp, M</b> <b>Dr Mdingi, H</b>	Library, Nadine Gordimer Auditorium
29/4/2020	13:00-14:30	Christianity in the age of #MeToo	<b>Dr Dube, S</b> <b>Prof Norte-Meyer, L</b>	Religion Studies Room 610
13/5/2020	13:00-14:30	Christianity and climate change	<b>Dr Nche, G</b> <b>Prof Viviers, H</b>	Religion Studies Room 610

For more information please see the attached poster or contact **Dr Elina Hankela** at: [elinah@uj.ac.za](mailto:elinah@uj.ac.za)

### POSTGRADUATE WRITING SEMINARS AND READING GROUP

**Clementine Nishimwe and Elina Hankela** are running writing seminars and a reading group for masters and doctoral students in the department. We kick off in February. For more information and if you want to attend these sessions, please contact **Clementine** at: [cnishstaug@gmail.com](mailto:cnishstaug@gmail.com)