# DEPARTMENT OF **RELIGION STUDIES**





### **NEWSLETTER**

## **15 September 2014**

**15 September 2014** 

2016

18 September 2014

#### **Staff News**

There will be a staff meeting on the 15 September from 11:30.

A very warm welcome to Prof Miguel de La Torres who joined us a visiting Professor since last Monday. We have already had some great times together and look forward to the rest of his stay here.

#### Honours, Masters and PhD Studies

If you are interested in doing an Honours, Masters or PhD in the Department of Religion Studies please contact Dr Maria Frahm-Arp mariafa@uj.ac.za to discuss Christian Studies and Dr Shahid Mathee smathee@uj.ac.za if you are interested in pursuing studies focusing in Islamic Studies. We have a number of generous bursaries and encourage students to apply as soon as possible so that you can apply for these bursaries.

### **Religion and Social Theory Reading group**

The department is hosting a series of six reading groups on a Thursday from 11:00-13:00. This week we are reading Slavoj Zizek 'Dialectical Clarity versus Misty Conceit of Paradox' and John Milbank 'The Double Glory, Or Paradox Versus Dialectics : On Not Quite Agreeing with Slavoj Zizek' (Slavoj Zizek and John Milbank. 2009. The Monstrosity of Christ: Paradox or Dialectic? New York: M I T Press).

For more information and readings please contact Ashraf religionstudiesuj@gmail.com.

#### Liberation and Ethics Theologian

On Thursday the 18 Sept 18:00-20:00 Prof de la Torres will give the second of his 7 week seminar series. This week the discussion is 'Sex is Great: A liberative theology view of sex and sexuality in Christianity'. Prof Farid Esack will introduce the seminar. The public are welcome to attend. Venue: Departmental Seminar Room Ring A 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

#### Liberation Theologies: 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### **27 September 2014**

**18 September 2014** 

Morning seminar on Liberation Theologies - Too large a banquet - too few diners - Exploring the competing demands on contours of Liberation Theology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Prof de la Torres will be addressing this interesting topic. He is a leading Ethical and Liberation Theologian who has published 30 books and works at Iliff School of Theology in Denver Time: 09:30-12:30 Venue: Humanities Common Room Ring C

#### **3rd Annual Study of Islam Graduate Conference**

Our 3rd Annual Study of Islam Graduate Conference was held on Saturday with all the papers being of an excellent quality and attended by about eighty participants. The highlight of the conference was Dr Amina Wadud's responses to papers and her own presentation. Prof de La Torres responded to her paper. Professor Wadud is arguably the world's most famous feminist scholar of Islam and Prof de La Torres is a world renowned liberation theologian. UJ is indeed fortunate to have them visiting us.











