



NEWSLETTER

March 2019

News from the department

The Annual Conference of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa (NTSSA) took place at UJ last week. Many of our staff members contributed to the conference:

- The conference was opened by **Prof Lilly Nortje-Meyer**, who is the Chair of the NTSSA, and **Prof Maria Frahm-Arp**.
- **Prof Nortje-Meyer** also delivered a plenary paper titled 'On Animals and Women: Formulating a Christology for Animals'.
- **Dr Llewellyn Howes** delivered a paper titled 'Reading Q 11:9-13 from Below'.
- **Clementine Nishimwe** and **Dr Brima van Niekerk** both did morning devotions.

PhD student **Iskandar Abbasi** was an invited speaker on a panel titled 'Malcolm X: Contested Perspectives on Violence and Non-Violence' organized by the Madina Institute's Center for Non-Violence and Peace Studies in Cape Town on 16 March.

Prof Farid Esack is on a five-city lecture tour of Indonesia. He is speaking at universities in Jakarta, Semarang, Yogyakarta, Bandung and Surabaya. Amongst other speaking engagements, he will be delivering the opening plenary address at a conference of African and Asian scholars on 'The Role of the Intellectual in the Face of Violence' at the Islamic State University of Bandung. The subject of his lecture is 'Between the Prophetic "*Wallāhu Yad`ū* ilā *Dār al-Salām* (And God Invites you to the Abode of Peace)" and the Political Instrumentalization of "Islam is Peace" – The Challenges for the *Ummatan Wasaʿtan* (The Balanced Community)'.

The Department hosted **Dr Shahid Tayob**, an anthropologist from the University of Stellenbosch, on 19 March. Other than teaching an honours class in Hadith, Dr Tayob delivered a well-received public lecture on 'Halal Certification in Comparison: The material Semiotics of Halal In India and South Africa'.

Dr Elina Hankela and **Clementine Nishimwe** attended a research workshop organised by the Nagel Institute (Calvin College, USA) in Pretoria in the first week of March. Hankela and Nishimwe are part of a research project that studies xenophobia and migrant churches in Johannesburg and Cape Town and falls under the African Theological Advance program run by the Nagel Institute.