



NEWSLETTER

01 August 2020

Our best wishes to those who observe `Id ul-Adha!

Saturday 1st August marks `Id ul-Adha (the Festival of Sacrifice) for Muslims throughout the world. This day marks the end of the rituals related to the pilgrimage to Mecca and commemorates the sacrifices of the Patriarch Abraham. The department wishes all Muslim students, staff and friends “`Id Mubarak”



Condolences

The department offers its condolences to the family of former lecturer in the Study of Islam **Shaikh Siraj Hendricks** who passed away on 9th of July due to Covid-19. Shaikh Hendricks was a prominent scholar of Islamic law and spirituality and was included in the University of Georgetown’s list of 500 most influential Muslims in the world.

Our department also would like to reach out and offer its condolences to our third-year student, **Cheslin Karriem** and his family for the loss of your family member. We want you to know that we are thinking about you in your bereavement. Please accept our deepest condolences to you and your family.





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Recent Publications and Other News

Dr Elina Hankela published an article titled 'Liberating the classroom: Ethnographic elements in liberation theologies curricula' in the July volume of the Wiley journal Teaching Religion and Theology. In the article Hankela brings two of her long-standing research interests, liberation theologies and ethnography, into conversation in thinking of teaching postgraduate (Honours) courses. This will be an interesting read especially for those of you who have done the liberation theologies course with Hankela.

Professor Esack wrote an article on the recent Turkish government decision to turn the Hagia Sophia (at different times a major cathedral for the Greek Orthodox Church, a mosque and a museum) into a mosque. It was published by the University of Notre Dame. The article, "The Hagia Sophia Debate: A Muslim-Christian Liberation Theology Approach" can be read at <https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/global-currents/the-hagia-sophia-debate/>.

In two separate webinars, **Professor Esack** interviewed Reverend Edwin Arrison from Kairos Southern Africa and Rev Frank Chikane, Head of the Apostolic Faith Mission in Southern Africa on Christian Liberation Theology and the State of Israel. The interviews, seen by thousands, can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/Africa4Palestine>.

Iskander Abbasi, a PhD student in our department published an article in the Maydan.com on Islam titled "Why the Muslim World Matters – Building a Home with the homeless. See the link below:

https://thamaydan.com/2020/07/why-the-muslim-world-matters-building-a-home-with-the-homeless/?fbclid=IwARObACiILaL_Pfp_Ez9G8A9yn1PAv1TMiq_whM7YzV3hC8M5ja25qJKSCqg.

Sheikh Ali Masawudu, a PhD student in our department spoke on Defining racism and how it is manifested differently in Muslim spaces. The talk was at Al Mustafa International University in Qum Iran on the 26th of June.

Jameel Asani who recently graduated with an MA from our department participated in a number of talks: A talk on Racism in Islam in light of the Black Lives Matter Movement with a specific message for the youth; he took part in discussions hosted by Cii Radio and Salaamedia (an online TV station) – The talk was on the role Malawian Muslim migrants have played in shaping African Islam in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

