



NEWSLETTER

01 April 2020

Responding to corona virus – In solidarity with all SA residents

During this period of total lockdown due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak that continues to spread across the globe, the Department of Religion Studies has decided to postpone all face-to-face meetings and seminars. The hope is that such a 21 days lockdown will curb the virus within South Africa and allow a return to normal life. The following seminars were postponed until further notice:

- ✚ Public seminars on Christianity and society
- ✚ A panel discussion on the book "Kenyan, Christian, Queer: Religion, LGBT Activism, and Arts of Resistance in Africa" authored by Dr Adriaan van Klinken (University of Leeds)
- ✚ Postgrad seminars: Reading and writing seminars

New dates to be advised

Publications and other news from the department

Professor Farid Esack attended an academic conference at the end of February at the Hephzibah Christian Centre in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The theme of the conference was Territoriality and Hospitality Muslim/Christian Africa. The conference culminated in large public session where Professor Esack and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Rowan Williams, were the keynote speakers. which marked the opening of the Sanneh Institute. The institute was founded to honour the memory of the late Professor Lamin Sanneh, a convert to Christianity from Islam, and a giant in the field of Islam in Africa Studies.

Dr Hlulani Mdingi wrapped up his engaging seminars in the series 'Black theology is not cheap' that he had started in February.

Dr. George Nche published an article on climate change in *Worldviews*. Find more details below. Nche, G. C. (2020). The religion-environment (climate change) connection: Evidence from Nigeria. *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture and Ecology*. 24 (1), 81-115.

Dr Elina Hankela attended a weeklong workshop for grantees of the African Theological Advance project (funded by the Templeton Religion Trust and facilitated by the Nagel Institute, US) in Kigali, Rwanda, in the beginning of March. Hankela belongs to a research team that has been working on the project "Xenophobia and the Re-imagination of Evangelization amongst Migrant-Dominated Churches in South Africa" over the last two years.

Clementine Nishimwe was invited to speak about the plight of migrant women and children on the 8th of March at the 1st CWC International Women's Day Global Event. Over a hundred women and school learners gathered at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Johannesburg for the Global action for international women's day.