



# Faculty of Theology and Religion Annual Report 2022



*Inspiring excellence. transforming lives  
through quality, impact, and care*



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVERSITHI YA  
FREISTATA



**UFS**  
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



SUIDBLOK

FACULTY OF  
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**





INGEWJD 1842  
HERBOUW 1906

1. Message from the Acting Dean.....	4
2. Teaching and Learning Manager Report.....	5
3. Departmental Reports:	
3.1 Department of Old and New Testament Studies.....	6
3.2 Department of Historical and Constructive Theology.....	13
3.3 Department of Practical and Missional Theology.....	20
3.4 Department of Religion Studies.....	25
4. Shepherd Centre.....	31
5. Acta Theologica.....	34
6. Research Outputs 2022.....	37



## Message from the Acting Dean

In 2022, the world slowly started to recover from the disastrous effects that COVID-19 had on people, institutions such as universities and churches, the economy, and the environment. The Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of the Free State also slowly returned to a “normal”, or to express it better, a “new normal”, since COVID-19 had a permanent effect on the way in which the university operates. For example, during COVID-19, valuable lessons on teaching and learning were learnt in a hard way, but we reaped the benefits of such lessons in that both lecturers and students became more adept at using e-learning to supplement and support the learning experience. The way in which the Faculty succeeded in managing the novel post-COVID-19 situation can be clearly noted in the remainder of this report. For example, in 2022, the average pass rate for the Faculty was 73.4%, which is fairly good compared to the situation in other faculties.

This report clearly portrays the numerous activities in which both support and lecturing staff were involved during 2022: the Theology Day, the Tutu Jonker lecture, teaching, learning, enrolling and advising new students, marketing, setting

and meeting enrolment targets, mentoring and guiding postgraduate students, publishing research (on themes of an astonishing diversity), fostering new relationships, international outreaches, engaged scholarship (in all its facets), organising conferences, symposia, public lectures, developing short learning programmes, investigating avenues of third stream income, a visit to Morija Theological Seminary by the Dean and the HODs, and so on. All of this was braced by a dedicated group of support staff, who exceeded what is expected of them. We are indeed fortunate that all the support staff and lecturing staff at this Faculty approach their jobs as a calling from God, the One who gives meaning to our lives and to theology.

Prof Rantoa Letšosa, our Dean, was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria and left us at the end of February 2023. We thank him for his service to our Faculty and University. On his behalf, I also express his gratitude for the constant and loyal way in which the HODs and the support staff in the Dean’s Office supported him while he was with us.



**Support staff in the Dean’s Office: Story Leeuw, Sinovuyo Mogwasi, Faciola Ntamo, Samantha Baron, Palesa Pholo, Dr Lyzette Hoffman, Siphokazi Dlwati, and Ingrid Mostert**

Finding stability in the year 2022 was very challenging for both Faculty staff and students. Soon after classes commenced, it became clear that there were not only residual challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic, but some teething ones were also creeping up that threatened the entire academic year. From disgruntled students to dissatisfied lecturers, tensions throughout the year mounted into the second semester when it became evident that an intervention was inevitable.

Through a series of student engagements, the Faculty received some constructive feedback while creating a space for the students to express themselves and be part of an emerging community, the Creating Theology Together series. Weekly sessions were held, and soon the tensions and mistrust between students and Faculty staff began to fizzle out, and the values of the UFS were the order of the day.

Accountability, excellence, and care became consequential outcomes of every realised goal in improving the student experience at the Faculty. Students began to feel heard and engaged. They knew they were cared for, and the lecturers' feedback drastically improved. By the end of the academic year, the Faculty managed to obtain an overall pass rate of 73.4%, with Practical and Missional Theology boasting an 80% pass rate for all their undergraduate modules. Although eighty-two students were unfortunately academically excluded, only forty-five appealed, with thirty reinstated after a successful appeal. These students received ongoing support during 2022.

Thank you to all our staff and students for continuously rising to the occasion and, once again, proving that "teamwork does indeed make the dream work".



*Siphokazi Dlwati, Teaching and Learning Manager*

## Department of Old and New Testament Studies

The Department of Old and New Testament Studies enjoyed a productive and more typical academic year compared to the previous pandemic years. Although COVID-19 did not vanish, the Department could resume more physical lectures, public lectures, as well as local and international travel for conferences and research. The Department went through an extensive external review this year and received a positive report.

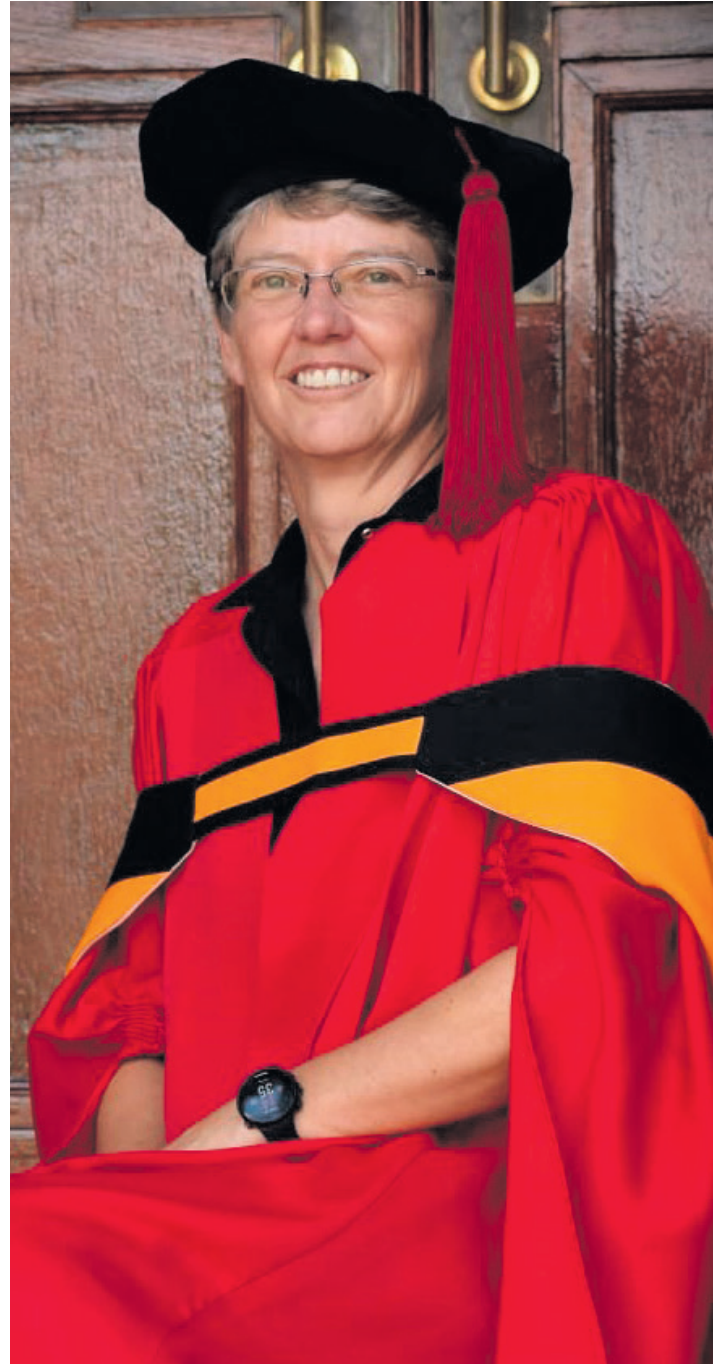
The Department's vision for the period 2021–2026 remains:

*In the Department of Old and New Testament Studies, we focus on studying and interpreting the Bible (the Old and New Testaments) and Early Christian Greek Literature. The literature (texts) is studied intensively, in its original languages and sources, applying its message contextually (authors then and readers now), responsibly and ethically to our current situation at the Faculty of Theology and Religion in Africa and globally, through internationally recognised research, teaching and learning that develop globally competitive graduates while also serving the communities of faith.*

A hybrid approach to teaching and learning was followed throughout the year; classes were mostly taught face to face and online, with continuous evaluation for the three disciplines: Old Testament, New Testament, as well as New Testament Greek and Early Christian Greek Literature. In New Testament, Prof Tolmie was on research leave during the second semester, and the lectures were offered by Drs Andries Hoffman, Riaan Stander, Rev De la Harpe le Roux, and Carli Rautenbach. Special mention must be made of the newly developed Greek curriculum that is ready for 2023. At the end of 2021, Francios Rautenbach completed her MA with distinction, with a specialisation in Classical Languages (Greek), under the supervision of Dr Machin and Prof Tolmie. She was appointed as part-time lecturer for Greek and New Testament Exegesis in 2022. She was responsible for all first and second-year lectures during the first semester of 2022 and for some of the lectures during the second semester.

The Department congratulates Dr Annéli Machin on her wonderful achievement this year. She is the only permanent lecturer for New Testament Greek in the Department and was on research leave for the first six months of 2022. As a result, she was able to complete her PhD, entitled “A text-centred rhetorical analysis of John Chrysostom’s *De inani gloria et de educandis liberis*”, with a specialisation in Classical Languages (Greek), by the end of July 2022. Her study was the first proper rhetorical analysis of an important work by this influential Church Father.

She received positive feedback from all three external examiners, who agreed that her research findings contribute significantly to the knowledge base of the discipline. All three external assessors recommended the publication of the thesis or parts thereof. She is currently reworking her thesis into a book publication.



**Dr Annéli Machin**



The staff of the Department completed a number of training sessions this year. Marina van Biljon, the departmental manager, and the entire Department's academic staff completed training on Blackboard Collaborate. Prof Lodewyk Sutton completed the following training courses: A1 - German for Beginners I (HUM Occasional Studies – Undergraduate at the UFS); UdeMy: Ancient Egyptian Language (Hieroglyphic) 101 Certificate; Online course on Effective Proposal Writing for Research Grants (UFS), and Academic Leadership Programme: Team Management (UFS). He is also in the process of completing the following: Ridley Certificate – Responding to Domestic Violence (Ridley College, Australia), and CREST Online Training Course for Supervisors of Doctoral Candidates at African Universities (Teaching and Learning, Stellenbosch University). Dr Doniwen Pietersen completed training in Basic Conversational Sesotho (for non-Sesotho speakers – UFS) and the Engaged Leadership Programme (UFS). He successfully completed the Teaching and Learning Fellowship programme for the past two years and served as mentor for the new cohort. He was also involved in WriteSpace, run by the UFS' Centre for Graduate Support, where he supports postgraduate students with their research writing projects.

Members of the Department also fulfilled various leading roles in academic societies and on editorial boards. Prof Sutton was treasurer of the Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies (SASNES). He also served on the editorial boards of *Acta Theologica*, *Journal for Semitics* (JSEM), and *UFS Theological Explorations*, and was sub-editor of *Old and New Testament Studies* for *Acta Theologica*. Dr Pietersen served on the editorial board of *Pharos Journal of Theology*. Dr Machin served on the editorial board of *UFS Theological Explorations*. Prof Tolmie retired in 2022 as the editor of *UFS Theological Explorations*. He was also on the editorial board of *Acta Theologica* and served on the board of the SNTS and the *Colloquium Ioanneum*. Members of the department were regularly involved in peer-reviewing articles.

The Department produced a number of publications during the year. Dr Pietersen published the following articles: "Confronting xenophobia in South Africa and the concept of foreigner in Deuteronomy as an act of othering", *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1); "(Mis)Treatment of women intersecting in the Codes of Hammurabi and Deuteronomy (Ancient Near East and South Africa)", *Journal for Semitics* 31(1), and "Leadership re-appropriated for 21st-century women: A reading of Deuteronomy 17:15–20", *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103(2). Prof Tolmie published "God, Christ and the Spirit in Luther and Calvin's commentaries on the Letter to Philemon", *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1).



*Marina van Biljon, Departmental Manager*

## Department of Old and New Testament Studies

Prof Sutton read a paper, entitled “A literary spatial reading of Song of Songs 6:1-12”, at the Tyndale Fellowship Conference, Old Testament Group, 22-24 June, London, UK.

From 8 to 12 August 2022, the Faculty of Theology at the University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland, hosted the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) conference, held every three years. At the conference, Prof Sutton was responsible for organising the workshop on “Violence in the Psalms” and read a paper, entitled “Mouths at war: Reading the direction of violence in Psalms 57-59”. He also read a paper, entitled “Vulnerability or resilience? The value of a stone in Psalm” at an e-conference on “Resilience: Psalms and/or Prophetic Literature”, 1-2 September 2022, Department of Old Testament and Hebrew Scriptures, University of Pretoria.

Dr Pietersen read the following papers: “Ideology and imagination: Resilient themes of tithe and blessing in Deuteronomy and Malachi”, Pro-psalms Conference, University of Pretoria, and an online conference paper, “Student-lecturer relationships in online LMS platforms”, University of the Free State Conference, 7-8 October 2022.

Drs Machin and Rautenbach attended a Teaching and Learning Indaba at the North-West University on 5 April 2022. The Indaba was hosted by the School of Ancient Languages to discuss the challenges and opportunities of online and hybrid/hyflex approaches to the teaching of ancient languages. Dr Machin did a presentation on the Greek curriculum offered by the Department and Rautenbach shared some of the challenges she experienced during online teaching of Greek. It was an enriching experience to meet and liaise with lecturers of ancient languages from different universities.



*Members of the Department read a number of academic papers at various conferences: Prof Lodewyk Sutton far right at the Tyndale Fellowship conference in the UK, with international research fellows of the Department. From left: Dr David Firth, Prof Brittany Melton and Prof Jamie Grant*



*University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland*



*Participants at the meeting of The International Colloquium for the Study of the New Testament (ICSNT)*

The International Colloquium for the Study of the New Testament (ICSNT) – an international research group founded jointly by this Department and the Department of Theology at Radboud University – held an international academic conference from 13 to 15 June at the Soeterbeeck Conference Centre, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The theme of the conference was spiritual transformation in the New Testament and related literature. This theme has never been dealt with thoroughly, and the sixteen papers that were read thus made a valuable contribution. The vast majority

of the contributors were researchers from/research fellows associated with our Faculty. Prof Tolmie read a paper on the depiction of spiritual transformation in Galatians 4:19.

The contributions will be published in 2024 in a volume of *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament*, by Mohr Siebeck in Tübingen. Prof Tolmie also read a paper on the hermeneutics of Thomas Aquinas at the 33rd International Szeged Conference in Hungary.

# Department of Old and New Testament Studies

Researchers in the Department also attended several other academic conferences during 2022. Prof Sutton attended:

- The South African Society for Near Eastern Studies (SASNES), 5-6 September, hosted by Stellenbosch University, South Africa;
- The Association for the Study of the Septuagint in South Africa, 7 September, hosted by Stellenbosch University, South Africa;
- The Old Testament Society of Southern Africa (OTSSA), 8-9 September, hosted by Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and
- The Society of Biblical Literature's annual conference in Denver, USA, 20-24 November.

Apart from the conferences at which he read papers, Dr Pieterse further attended:

- The First International Virtual Conference – Innovative Practices in Teaching and Learning for Building a Sustainable and Just Society (University of Crete, Greece; online), 14 October;
- The GoNeDigiTal Conference 2022 (Durham University; online), 7-9 July;
- ASSAf and the South African Journal of Science (Stellenbosch University; online), 8 June;
- The National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum (NSBPF) (International Conference Centre, Pretoria, online), 25 June;
- The Centre for the Study of the Afterlife of Violence and the Reparative Quest (AVReQ) (Stellenbosch University, online), 9 June;
- The Role of Higher Education Institutions in the Transformation of Future-Fit Education (Center for Global Affairs, New York University, online), 22 September;
- Paper by Dr Ntozakhe Cezula on "Now Deborah, a prophetess, a fiery woman: A gendered reading of Judges 4:4" (Stellenbosch University, online), 28 September;
- Paper by Dr Ntozakhe Cezula on "Learning Biblical Hebrew stem formations through isiXhosa Stem formations" (Stellenbosch University, online), 3 August;
- Paper by Thomas Römer on: "The so-called Deuteronomistic history: A sociological, historical and literary introduction" (University of Lausanne, online), 12 October;
- Paper by Lerato Mokoena on "A critique of mad reason" (University of Pretoria, online), 19 October, and
- Outlining a Decolonial Methodology using the Black Archive (Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study – University of Johannesburg, online), 29 August.

Apart from the conferences at which Prof Tolmie read papers, he also attended The Society of Biblical Literature's annual conference in Denver, USA, 20-24 November.

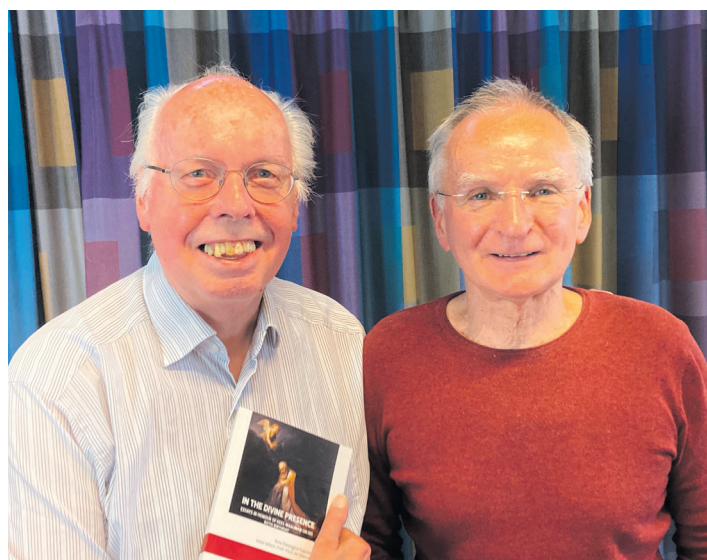
In terms of public and international engagements, members of the Department regularly preach at churches in the Bloemfontein area. Prof Sutton is the secretary and Prof Tolmie the chair of the DRC General Synod's committee on translation and interpretation of the Bible. Both Prof Sutton and Prof Tolmie presented Bible Schools for the DRC Universitas. Prof Tolmie serves on the board of the DRC Universitas congregation. Dr Pieterse was invited to mentor a postgraduate theology student as part of the University of Pretoria's official mentorship programme for the year 2022.

The Department hosted several public lectures, organised by Prof Sutton. The first of these was an online series of lectures on the topic of Old Testament Hermeneutics. Prof Louis Jonker spoke on "Contextual hermeneutics and the Old Testament". The other two speakers were Dr Jill Firth, on "Feminist studies and hermeneutics in the Old Testament", and Prof Elizabeth Mburu, on "African hermeneutics".

*The online public lecture series on Hermeneutics of the Old Testament, hosted in the Department of Old and New Testament Studies, UFS*


In October, research fellow Prof. Stefan Fischer from the University of Vienna, Austria, visited the Department and gave a public lecture on the topic “The Book of Job and Abraham’s sacrifice (Gen. 22) – A comparison”. The lecture took place at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, UFS, with an excellent attendance. The lecture was followed by a fruitful question and answer session.

Prof Kees Waaijman, Professor Emeritus of Radboud University, the Netherlands, has been a research fellow of the Department of Old and New Testament Studies for over 15 years. During this time, he has made valuable contributions to the Department in terms of research outputs and lectures to Master’s students in Spirituality. He recently turned 80 and, on this occasion, he was presented with a special *Festschrift* by the Faculty. This was in the form of a Supplementum edition of *Acta Theologica*, entitled *In the divine presence*, and contained contributions on spirituality by many leading scholars from all over the globe. The volume was presented to Prof Waaijman by Prof Pieter de Villiers, professor extraordinaire at our Faculty, and one of the editors of the book. The articles are available for reading at: <https://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/at> Since then we have learnt with sadness that Prof Waaijman passed away on 2 April 2023. The Department and Faculty have lost an excellent research fellow and a true friend. He will be missed dearly.




**Profs Kees Waaijman and Pieter de Villiers**

The year 2022 ended with an educational study tour to Egypt, organised by Prof Sutton. The purpose of the tour was to educate and create an opportunity, especially for our undergraduate students, to visit Egypt as one of the most prominent countries in the Bible. The participants on the tour experienced the historical, social, and geographical context of Egypt first-hand. At the end of 2022, Dr Pietersen resigned from the Department.



## Faculty of Theology and Religion Presents



**PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROF. STEFAN FISCHER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA IN AUSTRIA.**

HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES.

**Theme: The book of Job and Abraham's sacrifice (Gen 22) – a comparison**

Professor Stefan Fischer is an associate professor at the University of Vienna, in Austria. (The Faculty of Protestant Theology, Department for Old Testament Studies and Biblical Archaeology). He is the Head of the Institute of Religious Education, St. Gallen, and also lectures at St. Gallen University of Teacher Education, Switzerland. He was ordained in the Reformed Church of Basel, Switzerland, and served as a professor at the Morija Theological Seminary in Lesotho. He is currently a research fellow at the UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion.

**Date: 19 October 2022**


**Time: 10:00-11:00**

**Venue: TLG 120**

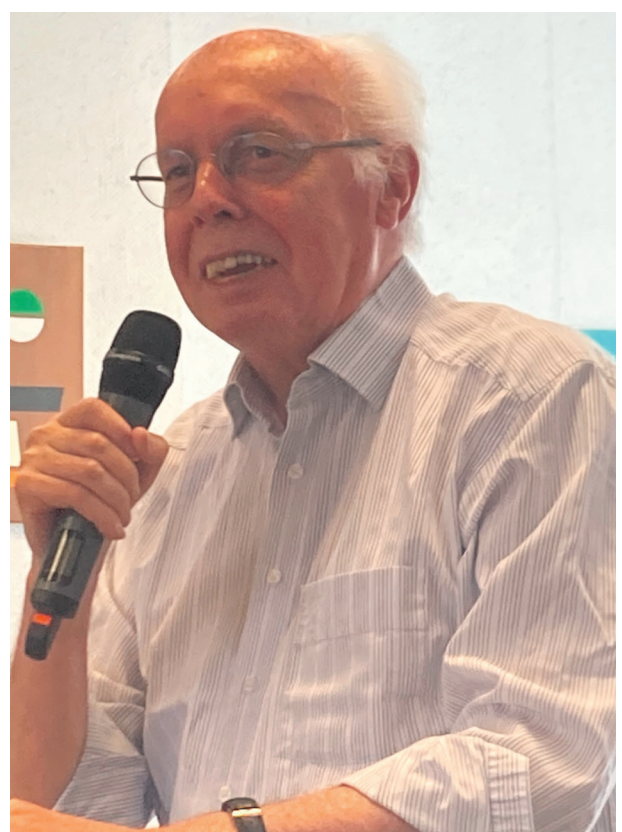
For more information  
 Ms Marina van Bijljon | Tel: 051 401 3995 | [vanbijljonm@ufs.ac.za](mailto:vanbijljonm@ufs.ac.za)  
[www.ufs.ac.za/theology](http://www.ufs.ac.za/theology) | [theology@ufs.ac.za](mailto:theology@ufs.ac.za)  
 f UFSUV | UFSweb | UFSweb | UFSUV

Inspiring excellence, transforming lives through quality, impact, and care.

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREETOWN STATE  
UNIVERSITY FETZAM  
PROTESTANT  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

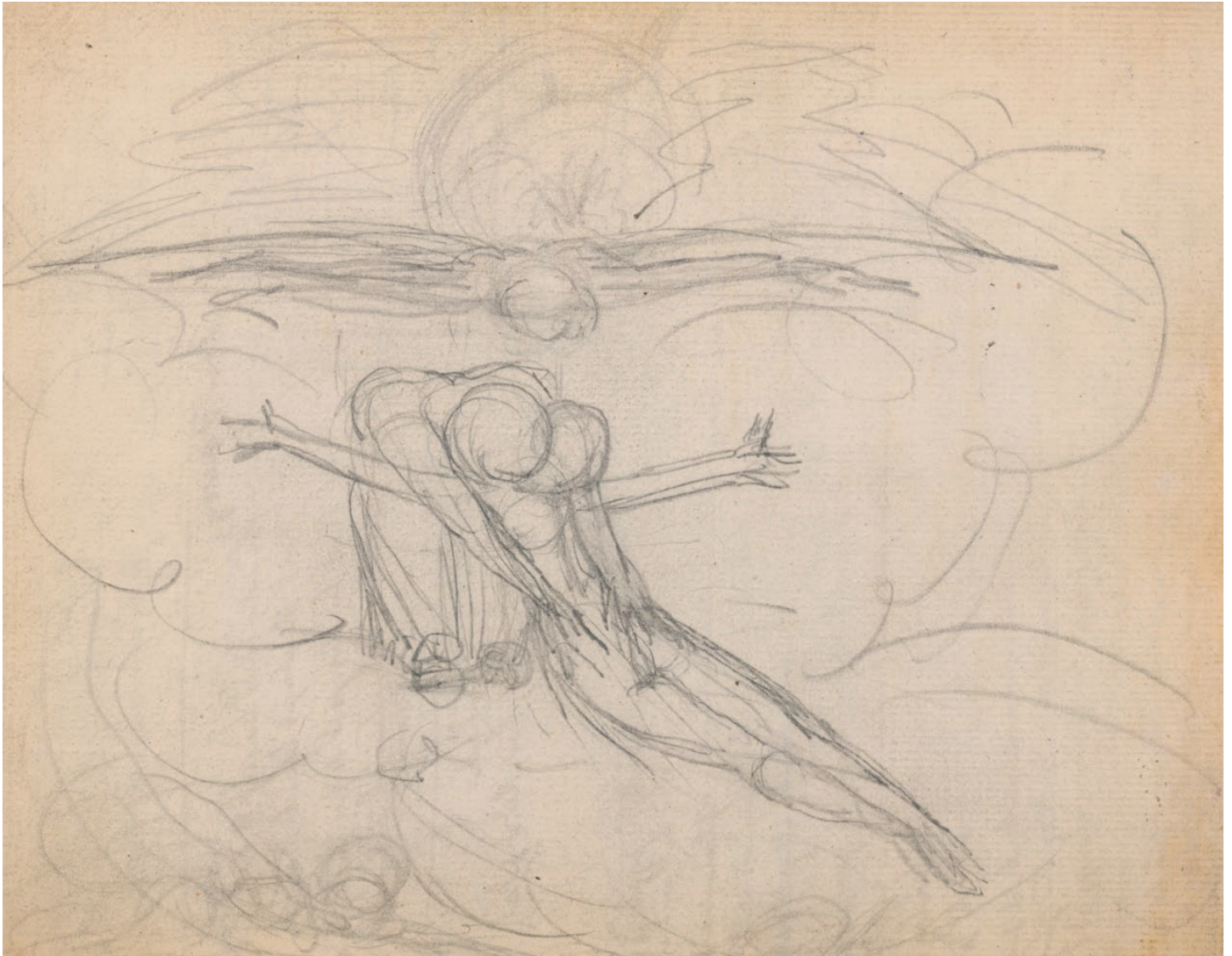


**Prof Stefan Fisher’s public lecture**



**Prof Kees Waaijman responds after receiving the volume**





*“... language could extend itself to its very limits, forever discovering new resonances within itself” - Paul Ricoeur*

The Department of Historical and Constructive Theology continued to think through what it means to do theology in South Africa nowadays. While the year 2021 focused on Willie James Jennings' *After whiteness: An education in belonging* (2020), the focus in 2022 was on Keri Day's *Notes of a native daughter: Testifying in theological education* (2021). In this book, Day “testifies to structural inequalities and broken promises of inclusion through the eyes of a black woman who experiences herself as both stranger and friend to prevailing models of theological education. Inviting the reader into her religious world – a world that is African American and, more specifically, Afro-Pentecostal – she not only uncovers the colonial impulses of theological education in the United States, but also proposes that the lived religious practices and commitments of progressive Afro-Pentecostal communities can help the theological academy decolonise and re-envision multiple futures. Deliberately speaking in the testimonial form – rather than the more conventional mode of philosophical argument – Day bears witness to the truth revealed in her

and others' lived experience in a voice that is unapologetically visceral, emotive, demonstrative, and, ultimately, communal. With prophetic insight, she addresses this moment when the fastest-growing group of students and teachers are charismatic and neo-Pentecostal people of colour for whom theological education is currently a site of both hope and harm. Calling for repentance, she provides a redemptive narrative for moving forward into a diverse future that can be truly liberating only when it allows itself to be formed by its people and the Spirit moving in them” (Back cover). These testimonies were the platform of what the Department wanted to embody in 2022.

Prof Henco van der Westhuizen was on sabbatical for the first semester. He spent three months in Germany, at the Forschungszentrum Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie at the University of Heidelberg, and in Tübingen. A book, *Letters to a young theologian* (Fortress Press), was published.

In the second semester, Prof Henco van der Westhuizen was invited to the World Council of Churches' 11th General Assembly in Karlsruhe.



**Prof Henco van der Westhuizen with Dr Agnes Abuom, moderator of the WCC Central Committee**

Prof Van der Westhuizen is also the founding editor of a new academic journal, the Journal of Systematic Theology (JST) ([www.journalofsystematictheology.com](http://www.journalofsystematictheology.com)), launched in October 2022. The JST publishes academic articles within the field of Systematic Theology, and the intersections of Theology and Philosophy, Hermeneutics, Literature, and the Arts.



**Prof Henco van der Westhuizen and Jürgen Moltmann**



**Drs Martin Laubscher and Eugene Fortein at the Free State Arts Festival**



# JOURNAL OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



**T**he Editorial Board consists of Prof Graham Ward (Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford, England), Prof Willie James Jennings (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale Divinity School, United States of America), Prof Katherine Sonderegger (William Meade Chair in Systematic Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, United States of America), Prof Michael Welker (Senior Professor at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and Executive Director of the Research

Centre for International and Interdisciplinary Theology), Prof Hanna Reichel (Associate Professor of Reformed Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, United States of America), Prof Jens Zimmermann (J.I. Packer Professor of Theology Regent College in British Columbia, Canada), Prof Richard Kearney (Charles Seelig Professor in Philosophy at Boston College, United States of America), and Dr Nadia Marais (Senior Lecturer at Stellenbosch University, South Africa).

The Department also had its Annual Lectures in Systematic Theology (by Prof Reichel), the Annual Lecture in Theology and Literature (by Prof Robert Vosloo) the Annual Lecture in Theology and Philosophy (by Prof Zimmermann), and the Annual Lecture in Theology and Film (by Prof Ola Sigurdson).

The Department also continued its Theology and Film Club. Prof Henco van der Westhuizen hosted the Theology Society of South Africa.



*To firmly establish JST, it will publish 40 academic articles in 2022 and 2023 as part of Prof Van der Westhuizen's project, Doing theology in South Africa.*



## Doing Trinitarian Theology in South Africa?

November 9, 2022

DOWNLOAD PDF BY RIAN VENTER Doing Trinitarian Theology in South Africa? "The life of the Father, Son and Spirit disrupts our conventional conceptions of the



## Philosophical Theology in South Africa?

October 28, 2022

DOWNLOAD PDF BY KHEGAN M. DELPORT Philosophical Theology in South Africa? "... ancient philosophy was understood as a comprehensive way of life, so by proposing



## Political Theology in South Africa?

October 2, 2022

DOWNLOAD PDF BY CALVIN D. ULLRICH "[t]here is, in fact, no theology that should not be relevant for the order of society" INTRODUCTION Theology has

## FORTHCOMING ARTICLES



Bernard Lategan, Doing Hermeneutics in SA



Ernst Conradie, Doing Creation Theology in SA

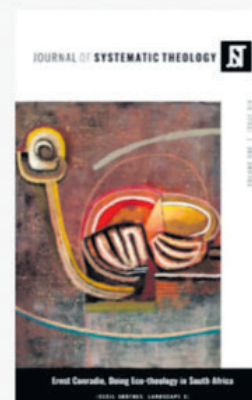


Selina Palm, Doing Disability Theology in SA

## FORTHCOMING ARTICLES



Cobus Van Wyngaard, Doing Liberation Theology in SA




Ernst Conradie, Doing Eco-theology in SA



John de Gruncky, The Task of Theology in SA

**JENS  
ZIMMERMANN**




GUARDING OUR HUMANITY:  
THE PROMISE OF  
PHILOSOPHICAL HERMENEUTICS

10 AUGUST 2022  
6 PM

18 AUGUST 2022, 18:00

THEOLOGY  
AND FILM CLUB



**THE TREE OF LIFE**

WATCH TRAILER

VISUAL MEDIA HUB

ANNUAL LECTURE IN  
THEOLOGY AND LITERATURE



Professor Robert R. Vosloo

14 September, 18:00  
Hobbit Boutique Hotel  
Bookings at [hvdw@ufs.ac.za](mailto:hvdw@ufs.ac.za)

21 SEPTEMBER 2022, 18:00

THEOLOGY  
AND FILM CLUB



**THIS IS NOT A BURIAL,  
IT'S A RESURRECTION**

WATCH TRAILER

VISUAL MEDIA HUB

**hanna reichel**  
THEOLOGY AND DESIGN



12 OCTOBER 2022  
18:00 (SAST)

hosted by The Initiative of  
Theology for Southern  
Africa

**OLA  
SIGURDSON**

on Theology  
and Film



November 16,  
2022  
6 P.M. (SAST)  
via Zoom

Register at  
[hvdw@ufs.ac.za](http://hvdw@ufs.ac.za)



**Ntando Mlambo with Dr Cobus van Wyngaard**

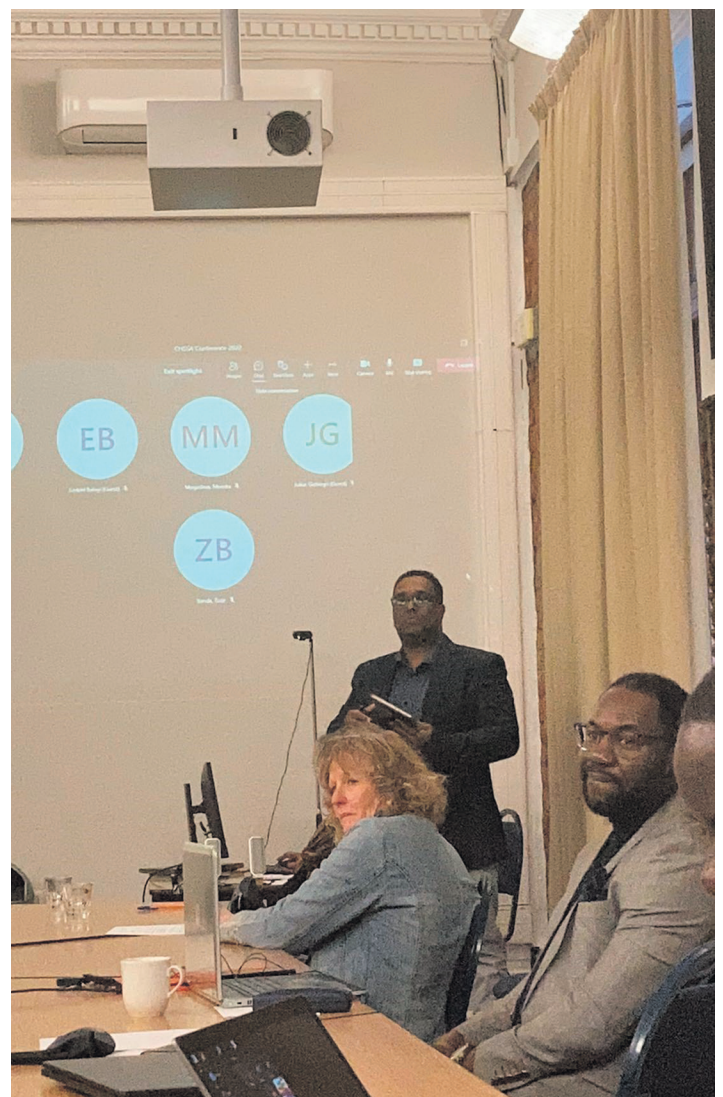


**Dr Eugene Fortein**

While Prof Van der Westhuizen was on sabbatical, Dr Fortein served as Head of the Department. At the faculty's Annual Theological Day at the Odeion School of Music, Dr Fortein was the keynote speaker, and spoke on "Vulnerability by design: On a theology of prophetic solidarity".

At undergraduate and postgraduate levels, Dr Fortein continued teaching the modules on the history of Christianity, African church history, South African church history, and 20th-century church history. He continued his research on Black Theology of Liberation, focusing on a history from below. In 2022, he published "Vulnerable by design: Black theology as prophetic theology" in the international *Ecumenical Review*, "Neither white nor black: The Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the colour issue (1881-1982)" in *Studia Historiae Ecclesiae* (available at: <https://doi.org/10.25159/2412-4265/10301>), and "With one ear at the mouth of the people and the other at the mouth of God: The black theologian as an exegete of Scripture and of life" in *The fire, the water and the scorched earth in-between: 50 Years of black liberation theology through the lens of Allan Boesak*.

At the Church History Society of Southern Africa and Stellenbosch University's conference on "Mirrors and windows: Reflecting on the reformed tradition today", Dr Fortein presented the following papers: "The battle of the airwaves: The role of radio in mission and colonialism" and, remembering the Belhar Confession written 40 years ago, "Belhar as a mirror and window to social cohesion and justice". Dr Fortein also accepted an invitation from Stellenbosch University's Department of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology to attend a colloquium on "Contemplation and action". This initiative forms part of the project "Stellenbosch theological reflections". Dr Fortein's contribution was entitled "I will not restrain my tongue: A black theology of liberation".



**Dr Eugene Fortein at the colloquium at Stellenbosch University**

# Department of Historical and Constructive Theology

After almost two decades at Justo Mwale Theological College, Lusaka, Zambia, and 16 years at the University of the Free State, Prof Rian Venter retired at the end of the year. Appointed in 2006 as Associate Professor in Systematic Theology, Venter served as Head of the Department of Dogmatology, and later of the Department of Historical and Constructive Theology. During these years, he also served as Acting Dean. For many years, Venter's main research focused on Trinitarian Theology, on which he gave his valedictory lecture. The theme was also the focus of his inaugural lecture in 2010, when he became Full Professor. Besides academic articles on the Trinity (as an example, "Taking stock of the Trinitarian renaissance: What have we learnt?"), Venter published interdisciplinary articles on, inter alia, "Theology, philosophy of biology and virology: An interdisciplinary conversation in the time of COVID-19", "Making sense of the COVID-19 pandemic from the Bible – Some perspectives", and "Divine hiddenness, the melancholic self, and a pandemic spirituality".

He was also the plenary speaker at the Theological Society of South Africa, held in Bloemfontein. His monograph on a theology of the Trinity, entitled *Considering the doctrine*

*of God: Fragments on Trinity, discourses, and time*, was published as a Supplementum to *Acta Theologica*. Venter remarked as follows on his retirement: "After sixteen years at the University I had to retire, and this occasion prompted a moment of stocktaking, and change on many levels could be the most appropriate description of capturing my experience. The Faculty has seen so many drastic shifts over the year. The demography or profile has radically changed over the years. Student numbers have not only increased, but the profile of students has changed. The same happened to the lecturers. The very diversity of the country has come to mark the character of the Faculty. The Faculty has become inclusive, expressing the rich diversity of the country as such. At a deeper level the knowledge project as such changed. The insistence on transformation has been radicalised with the drive for decolonisation. The expectation is that neglected knowledge traditions should be retrieved. For theology it implied that curricula had to be revised. The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to another change for education – the use of technology and the embracing of hybrid teaching and learning approaches. In a short period, the character of the theological faculty has changed. This has been experienced as exciting, liberative and constructive."

Ntando Mlambo, who continued to work on her doctoral dissertation, was appointed at UNISA. We are happy to have Cheralle Sinra as part of our team, as of April.



**Dr Eugene Fortein with the leadership of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, Stellenbosch University**



**Ntando Mlambo**



**Prof Rian Venter**



**Cheralle Sinra, Departmental Manager**

# Department of Practical and Missional Theology

## Undergraduate teaching

The Department of Practical and Missional Theology continued its teaching practices at an undergraduate level in a post-pandemic environment. Whilst some challenges were experienced in terms of student commitment and adjustment to attending face-to-face classes, our lecturers succeeded in delivering learning content in creative ways to the students, in a blended learning environment, intensely focusing on integrating scholarly engagement activities with their modules.

Dr Laubscher took the fourth-year students on a weekend retreat, where they were exposed to specific preaching and liturgical practices. Prof Juanita Meyer continued with engaged learning activities during the third, fourth and fifth year of BDiv/MDiv studies. With the third-year students, a narrative workshop, called “My life in a suitcase” project, was facilitated with learners at the Martie du Plessis school. The fourth-year students were involved with individual children under the care of ENGO youth care and visited Grootvlei Correctional Services, facilitated by a chaplain.



*Fourth-year students and lecturers on a weekend retreat at Menuha*



*Fourth-year students visit Grootvlei Correctional Services*

## Postgraduate teaching

Postgraduate teaching in all programmes continued with great success in the Department: PGDip, MDiv, the structured honours and MTh programmes, and the supervision of several PhD students. Missiology conferred a PhD degree on student Michee Bade, while four doctoral candidates in practical theology completed their research in 2022. In particular, one of these candidates, Dr Mias van Jaarsveld, completed his research as part of a joint doctoral degree programme between the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and the University of the Free State. Under the guidance and leadership of Dr Laubscher, the newly renovated PGDip programme was successfully completed.

Students in the MDiv programme also engaged in community work and training by completing a practicum at Aurora Rehabilitation Centre. This included a certified two-day training in supporting those addicted to substances.



*PGDip students in class*

## Staff

The Department celebrated the promotions of two lecturers in 2022. Drs Eugene Baron and Juanita Meyer were promoted to associate professorship. Our departmental manager, Annelize Dreyer, was appointed full-time, corresponding to an increase in her administrative workload.



**Annelize Dreyer, Departmental Manager**

Dr Wessel Wessels continued his postdoctoral fellowship in the Department and lectured three modules at undergraduate level (TPIP1514, Interpreting and proclaiming the Bible in Africa; TPTH1724, Studies in practical theology and ministry, and TMIS7124, Studies in theology and mission in modern Africa). As a postdoctoral fellow, he produced two research outputs for the year 2022: "Towards struggle as lived experience: Contemplation on homiletic research for a (post-)pandemic world", *Acta Theologica* 42(1):158-173, and "Identity, power, and responsibility: Reflections on prophetic preaching in South Africa", *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(1):1-22.

## Research activities

Academic staff remained active and productive in publishing research. Prof Pieter Verster published two monographs, entitled *The Triune God and mission: A theology of mission*, through the renowned international publication house, Wipf and Stock, as well as *The church of faith, love, hope, and mission*, published through Sunbonani Scholar.

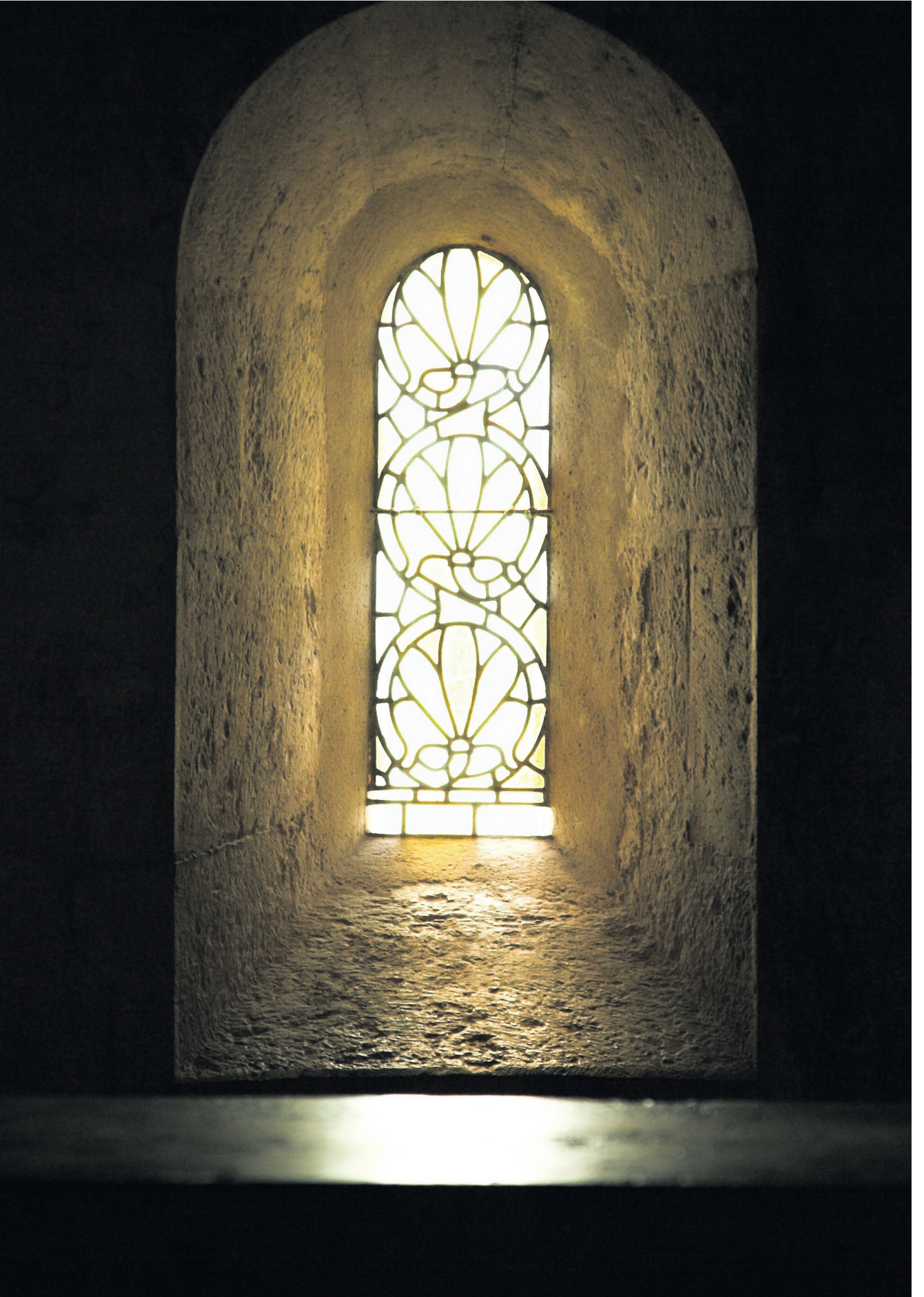
Prof Jan-Albert van den Berg contributed as author to a book publication, entitled *Spiritual formation in local faith communities: A whole-person, prompt-card approach*, Wipf and Stock, in collaboration with internationally renowned researchers Neil Pembroke, Ewan Kelly, Theo Plezier, and William Schmidt.

Prof Kobus Schoeman continued with the longitudinal research project, entitled "Congregational leadership, congregations and their mission in the township", of which the main aim is to critically describe and evaluate, from a contextual and practical theological perspective, the role of township congregations as communities of faith within their communities and society at large, by using a revised NCLS methodology.

In collaboration with Prof Chris Hermans from the Radboud University, the Netherlands, and extraordinary professor affiliated with the Department, Prof Schoeman also co-edited a book, entitled *Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity* through Lit Verlag (Zurich), in which several of the Department's scholars participated. Dr Laubscher published a chapter, entitled "Resilient preaching? A critical appraisal of Johan Cilliers' trilogy on grace", and Prof Meyer, contributed a chapter, entitled "Surviving my story of trauma: A pastoral theology of resilience". Prof Schoeman also contributed a chapter, entitled "The congregation as a community of discernment and practice – enhancing resilient religion", to this edited publication.

Apart from an article in *In Luce Verbi*, Dr Laubscher published a monograph, entitled *Publieke teologie as profetiese teologie? 'n Kritiese beskouing van die sosio-ekklesiologiese implikasies van die drieërlei amp in die teologie van Karl Bart* (Sun Media).

Dr Joseph Pali, who facilitated various important workshop discussions for pastors and ministers in and around Bloemfontein, published two articles in reputable journals about the legacy of imperialism, spiritual formation in the Catholic church, and the effects of the pandemic on the church landscape in Zimbabwe: Mokone, P.C. and Pali, K.J. "The significance of integration of families of seminarians in the Roman Catholic ministerial formation in South Africa", *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-17, and Baloyi, E. and Pali, K.J. "COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the church landscape in Zimbabwe", *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-14.





## Public and international engagements

On a public and international platform, the following is of interest.

Prof Schoeman delivered a paper, entitled “The beliefs and practices of the congregation membership: A perspective from different congregations”, at a national conference, Society for Practical Theology in South Africa (SPTSA), 9-11 February, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein). He also read a paper, entitled “Evaluating township congregations in challenging times: A South African perspective”, at an international conference of the International Society for Empirical Research in Theology (ISERT), 19-22 June, Assisi, Italy.

Dr Laubscher delivered several presentations at national and international level, of which a presentation at the Annual Academy of Homiletics, in Louisville, Kentucky, is noteworthy. He presented a paper, entitled “An international (South African) response to Dr Julio Adam’s ‘Preaching and decoloniality in the Brazilian context’: An attempt”. He also presented another paper, entitled “Barth on ‘preaching toward truth?’”, at the 14th International Conference of the Societas Homiletica in Budapest, Hungary. Furthermore, he was actively involved at the Free State Arts Festival – Literatuurfees (“Vrysprak”) in either leading and/or participating in book discussions. Some of these were with Dr Ben du Toit, author of *God. Is daar 'n ander antwoord? 'n Bevrydende reis*; with Dr Henco van der Westhuizen, author of *Letters to a young theologian*, and with Dr Eugene Fortein, in discussion on his book *Publieke teologie as profetiese teologie?*

Prof Verster attended a conference hosted by the Southern African Missiological Society at Stellenbosch University and read a paper entitled, “Re-imagining an African ethical value-based social contract: Church and community”. He also represented our Department as a missiologist at a conference hosted by the University of Pretoria.

Upon invitation, Prof Eugene Baron visited the Protestant Theological University (the Netherlands) and Abo Akademi (Finland) as a research fellow and attended the African Leadership Symposium, in Oslo, Norway. He also participated in a Belgium Research Group on the themes of “radicalisation and violence”.

Dr Pali was invited as keynote speaker to the LEC General Synod, Morija, on 20 April. The theme was “The role and response of churches beyond the COVID-19 pandemic”. The LEC General Synod was attended by the Prime Minister of Lesotho and many of the dignitaries from Lesotho, as well as pastors and members of the LEC church in Lesotho. Dr Pali also presented papers at a conference held at Stellenbosch University, with the theme “Mirror and windows: Reflecting on the reformed tradition today”. Dr Pali presented the following papers: “The use of church order to instil discipline and order amongst the ministers in the DRCA FS: Biblical and practical reflections”, and “The contemporary view on church unity within the Dutch Reformed family of churches: Theological reflection on the perspectives of the leadership of the DRCA”. In addition to various facilitations in different circuits of the DRCA, Dr Pali presented a paper in a local discussion held at the University of the Free State, 10-12 June, on the theme, “Engaged scholarship and the way forward”.

Dr Pali was also invited to a Reformation Day celebration by the DRCA Regional Synod of FS and Lesotho, attended by many DRCA congregations in the Free State and held at Kroonstad on the 30 October. He spoke on the following theme: “Historical analyses of the events leading to reformation day: Lessons, opportunities, and challenges for the DRCA”.

Prof Meyer visited KU Leuven, Belgium, and the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, to collaborate with international scholars on a research project concerning pastoral theology, masculinity, and spirituality.

The vast majority of the departmental members were also involved at the annual Society for Practical Theology in South Africa (SPTSA) conference, where they delivered papers and served on the executive board. In 2022, the Department of Practical and Missional Theology had the privilege of hosting a successful SPTSA conference on the campus of the University of the Free State.

The Department also revamped its research fellow programme and is excited by the possibility of an increase in publications as a result of the appointment of several new scholars as research fellows.



## Undergraduate teaching

As the youngest Department in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, the Department of Religion Studies boasts about its hard-working and overly committed staff members who meaningfully invest their time and efforts in the advancement and success of the Department. Despite a variety of challenges in terms of capacity, heavy workloads, and limited resources for recruiting more part-time lecturers, the Department continues to excel in teaching and learning; research and innovation; engaged scholarship, and internationalisation.

At present, the Department offers both undergraduate and postgraduate modules. The Department offers seven undergraduate modules, ranging from systematic and contextual studies of “Contemporary expressions of religiosity in Africa” (TRER1524); “The study of religion and social milieu” (TRRS1514); studies in the “Social ethics of a religion – focusing on Pentecostal Christianity” (TRLS1714); studies in “The African traditional religion and Christianity” (TTRC2624); the study of the “Phenomenology of religion” (TRPH3712); the study of “Selected world religions” (TRWR3722), to the “Study of belief systems” (TRBS4822).

In terms of workload, six modules were shared equally between the two permanent staff members within the Department: Prof. Joel Mokhoathi (TRRS1514; TRLS1714 & TRBS 4822), and Rev. Jacob Mokhutso (TTRC2624; TRPH3712 & TRWR3722). Dr Wessels, a part-time lecturer, assisted in teaching the seventh module (TRER1524). Recovering from the recent encounter with COVID-19, the Faculty of Theology and Religion, including the Department of Religion Studies, moved towards a blended form of teaching and learning, whereby some classes were face-to-face, while others were online. The adjustment was manageable, and the Department continued to experience some positive outcomes.

Ronel Ellis was very instrumental in managing the activities of the Department and in helping to track the student success ratios for all undergraduate and postgraduate modules. The following is a summary of the success rates of all the undergraduate modules that were offered in the Department. Of the 176 students who registered for the module “Contemporary expressions of religiosity in Africa” (TRER1524), 152 students passed, 93 of whom with distinction, and 20 students failed. Four students did not participate in the module. Thus, the module average of achievement was 88.37%. Three students took the module “Religion and social milieu” (TRRS1514). Two students passed with distinctions and two failed. That is an average of 66.67%. The 13 students who registered for studies in the “Social

ethics of a religion – Focusing on Pentecostal Christianity” (TRLS1714) all passed with distinction, and the pass rate was 100%. Of the 31 students who enrolled for the study of the “Phenomenology of religion” (TRPH3712), 18 students passed, 6 of whom with distinction, and 11 students failed. Two students did not participate in the module. The average pass rate was 62.07%. Of the 31 students who enrolled for the study of “Selected world religions” (TRWR3722), 25 students passed, 7 of whom with distinctions, and 5 failed. One student did not participate in the module. The average pass rate was 83.33%. Of the 9 students who took the module: “The study of belief systems” (TRBS4822), 7 students passed, 2 of whom with distinctions, and 2 did not participate in the module. The average rate of achievement was 100%.



**Ronel Ellis, Departmental Manager**

## Postgraduate teaching

The Department of Religion Studies prides itself in adopting an inclusive, non-sectarian and neutral approach to the study of religion. It adheres to the basic principles of religious tolerance, religious plurality, and religious inclusion. The contents of our courses are designed to equip students with the capacity to study and critically engage with religion from a wide-ranging perspective that fosters respect and mutual recognition for other religious traditions. Various theoretical or philosophical approaches, methodologies and hermeneutical/textual traditions are, therefore, studied and used in a manner that seeks to add value or to contribute positively to an array of contemporary issues such as religious extremism, violence in the name of God, religious justifications for gender-based violence, and so on that continue to threaten the stability and pursuit of peace in our society, both at a local and international level.

Our postgraduate programmes cater for both structured and research-directed studies. Structured programmes start at an Honours to the Master's levels. There are no structured programmes for doctoral studies, as the Department only offers doctoral studies through research. Because they are contextually relevant and address societal issues, our programmes have attracted students from different countries and backgrounds.

The Department has a diversity of postgraduate students. We have students from a variety of countries such as, Ghana, Lesotho, South Africa, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. In terms of student success, two PhD students obtained their degrees; in 2021, one Master's student obtained the degree cum laude; and in 2022, three Master's students obtained their degrees – one cum laude.

## Staffing

There were bitter-sweet moments for the Department of Religion Studies towards the end of 2022. Bitter moments came with the end of tenure for the Acting Head of Department position of Prof Verster, who retired. His valuable insight and leadership directed the Department for the past two and a half years (July 2020–December 2022). All the members of the Department were saddened by his retirement. However, as part of the succession plan, Prof Mokhoathi was appointed as the Head of Department. The other bit of good news came with the promotion of Prof Mokhoathi to the position of Associate Professorship, which was a momentous occasion, where the Department celebrated the double promotion of one person in the same year.

Having had many challenges with capacity building, the Department of Religion Studies gladly welcomed and appreciated the significant contribution of Rev Mokhutso, who joined the Department in 2021. The Department also celebrated the promotion of Ellis, who was appointed as 8/8 Departmental Manager in October 2022. Thus, with the assistance of Ellis, the Department was in a better position to effectively execute its duties and meet its intended goals through the available staff members.

The members of the Department were also privileged to be joined by Dr Wessels, who assisted the Department as a part-time lecturer. His value and contribution towards the Department is acknowledged.

In essence, the Department of Religion Studies relied on these individuals, in order to thrive in 2022. Their hard work and dedication is extensively cherished.



## Research activities

Members of the Department were involved in research activities in 2022, including conference participation, community engagement, and research publications. Below, are some of the highlights of the year.

For research activities, in May 2022, Rev Jacob Mokhutso presented an academic paper, entitled “A man’s role as head, a burden or a blessing? An exploration of the African and Christian perspectives on the conventional role of a male person”, at the 85th Annual Convention of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. This convention was held at Mokala-Montle District, in Bloemfontein.

Early in March 2022, Prof Mokhoathi visited the National University of Lesotho (NUL), and Morija Museum & Archives, in Lesotho, for a special research project on “African Christianity: The interplay between religion, identity and culture”. This research project is funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) under the Thuthuka Instrument and it runs for three years, from 2021 to 2023. In July 2022, Prof Mokhoathi attended an International Conference of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence on “medialities”. The conference was hosted jointly by the University of Bayreuth and Rhodes University in the Centre for African Studies, Grahamstown. In September 2022, he attended, as keynote speaker, another International Conference on “ProMores”, at the University of Pretoria. The conference was hosted by the Department of Systematic and Historical Theology.

In terms of community engagement, Rev Jacob Mokhutso was involved in the operations of the Methodist Church, St. Thomas Circuit, as an assistant minister. Some of his

responsibilities included, but were not limited to preaching, offering the sacraments, facilitating teaching and training for lay preachers and leaders, serving as the IST Convener in charge of the training of student ministers completing their training in congregations, as well as marking and submitting their assignments which are set by the Church Education body EMMU. At an institutional level, Rev Mokhutso is part of the Faculty Engaged Scholarship Committee (FESCO), which plans activities between the Faculty and the community, and organises engaged scholarship activities within the Faculty. He also served as an external moderator for Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC) in programmes for the Higher Certificate, Diploma, and Bachelor of Theology.

Prof Joel Mokhoathi closely worked with the Inter Religious Forum (IRF), a religious body consisting of seven different faiths, which operates under the Department of Religion Studies. As part of his community engagement, Prof Mokhoathi was appointed as academic reviewer for the National Research Foundation (NRF) for a cycle of 3 years (2022-2024). He conducts reviews for the following categories: Competitive Programme for Rated & Unrated Researchers (CPRR), Comparative Support for Unrated Researchers (CSUR), and Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers (Y-Rated).

With regard to research publications, the academic staff members, in collaboration with the research fellows under the Department of Religion Studies, produced a considerable number of research outputs. (See list of accredited outputs further on in this report.)

## Images of activities

**THEOLOGY AND RELIGION**  
UFS

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES HOSTS

*Live Webinar*

**THEME**  
**ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY**

15 MARCH 2022  
12:00 PM

theology@ufs.ac.za

**Prof Hussein Solomon**  
Senior Professor and Academic Head of Department of Political Studies and Governance

RSVP BEFORE 14TH FOR LINK  
ellisjp@ufs.ac.za

UFSUW | UFSWeb | UFSweb | UFSUW

Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE ORKAS  
UNIVERSITHA YA KWAZULU-NATAL  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

**Faculty of Theology and Religion Presents**

Department of Religion Studies

**Table Talk with Dr Nomfundo Mlisa**

**Theme: African Christianity: intersections between religion, culture and identity**

Date: 29 June 2022 Time: 10:00-13:00  
Venue: Centenary Complex, UFS, Bloemfontein  
Please RSVP : ellisjp@ufs.ac.za by 24 June 2022

www.ufs.ac.za/theology | theology@ufs.ac.za

UFSUW | UFSWeb | UFSweb | UFSUW

Inspiring excellence, transforming lives through quality, impact, and care.

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE ORKAS  
UNIVERSITHA YA KWAZULU-NATAL  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

**Faculty of Theology and Religion Presents**

Department of Religion Studies

**Public Lecture**

Interfaith Encounters and Transforming 'Live-Religions' of African Indigenous, Christian, and Muslim Practitioners within African Indigenous Ontology and Knowledge

Speaker: **Prof. Xolile Simon**, Dept. Theology and Missiology, Stellenbosch University

Date: 7 June Time: 12:00-13:00

TEAMS Tap on the TEAMS icon to join

Tel: 051 401 2867 | theology@ufs.ac.za | https://www.ufs.ac.za/theology

UFSUW | UFSWeb | UFSweb | UFSUW

Inspiring excellence, transforming lives through quality, impact, and care.

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE ORKAS  
UNIVERSITHA YA KWAZULU-NATAL  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



## Public and international engagements

The Department hosted a number of public and international engagements. In terms of public engagements, it hosted a public lecture on the theme “Islam and democracy”, with Prof Hussein Solomon as the guest speaker, on 15 March 2022. Prof Solomon is a Professor in the Department of Political Studies and Governance at the University of the Free State and is a Senior Research Associate of the Israeli-based Research on Islam and Muslims in Africa (RIMA). On 7 June 2022, the Department hosted another public lecture on the theme “Interfaith encounters between African Indigenous, Christian, and Muslim practitioners”. Prof Xolile Simon was the guest speaker. Prof Simon is a Professor of Missiology in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Stellenbosch. On 29 June 2022, the Department hosted the last public engagement with a Tabletalk with Dr Nomfundo Mlisa on the theme “African Christianity: Intersections between religion, culture and identity”. Dr Mlisa is a clinical psychologist, a theologian, and an accredited health traditional practitioner. She is also a research fellow at the Department.

In terms of international engagements, the Department extended its collaborations with other scholars and/or scholarly organisations. In line with this, Rev Mokhutso was involved in collaborative teaching and learning with the Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, USA), working closely with Prof Henk Pieterse. He also collaborated with Rev Mwansa Claude Kimpinde (Sheffield, United Kingdom) through research. On 27-28 October, the Department also

hosted an international conference on the theme “The African heritage: Conceptual images of Africanness at the turn of coloniality”. The conference intended to attract and build networks with both national and international scholars. As a result, ten speakers participated in the conference, including the following scholars: Prof Mary Getui, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya, Dr Nomfundo Mlisa, Research Fellow, Department of Religion Studies, UFS, Dr William Mpofu, Senior Researcher, Wits University, Johannesburg, Prof Tunde Bewaji, Emeritus Professor, University of the West Indies, Jamaica, Dr Julius Nabende, Senior Lecturer, Kenyatta University, Kenya, Prof Kudzai Biri, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe, Dr Veronica Waweru, Yale University, USA, Prof Sawadogo Natewinde, Thomas Sankara University, Burkina Faso, Ms Jane Mufamadi, Chief Executive Officer, Freedom Park, Salvokop, Pretoria, and Mr Ullrich Kleinhempel, Bavaria College (Bayernkolleg), Schweinfurt, Germany. This hybrid two-day conference was held at the Albert Wessels Auditorium, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus.

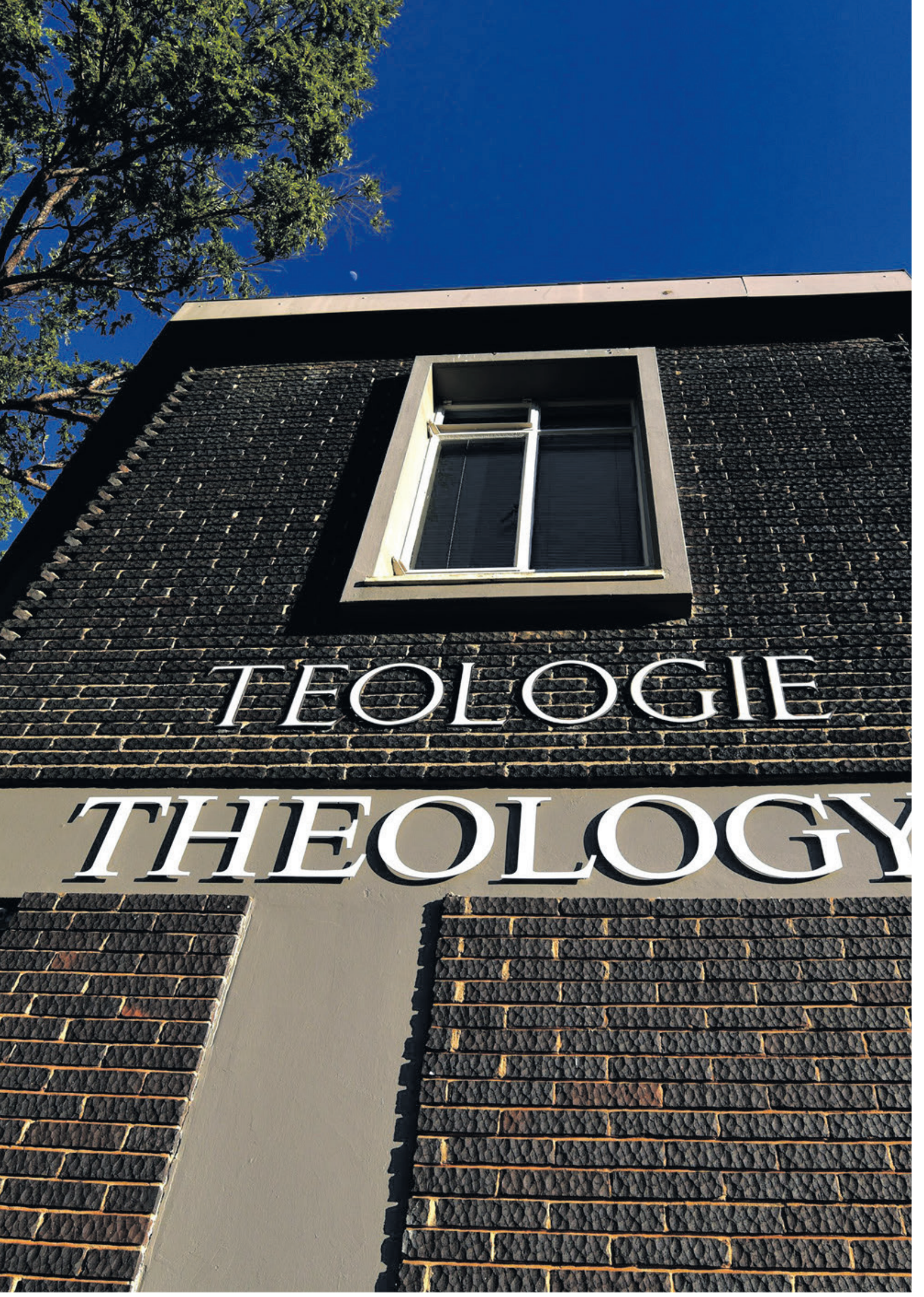
The year 2022, therefore, was a remarkable year with many challenges, but also filled with wonderful stories of success for the Department of Religion Studies. Above all, as members of the Department, we are truly happy and satisfied with the milestones that the Department of Religion Studies has achieved, and we look forward to 2023.



**Ronel Ellis, Prof Joel Mokhoathi, Prof. Pieter Verster, Ullrich Kleinhempel, Rev Jacob Mokhutso and Dr Nomfundo Mlisa**



**Profs Jaco Beyers, Tanya van Wyk, Joel Mokhoathi, and Etienne de Villiers**



TEOLOGIE

THEOLOGY



The year 2022 was a year of building ourselves up in preparation for the great plans in place for 2023. Our main focus was building stakeholder relationships and growing our SLP offering to make sure that we meet the needs of our market.

### Staff

The Centre falls under the Office of the Dean and has the Dean as Head of the Centre. The Centre's staff includes Sinovuyo Mogwasi, the project coordinator. For four months of the year, we were assisted by Velia Dortley, while Mogwasi was on maternity leave. Dortley did an exceptional job while in office.



*Sinovuyo Mogwasi, Shepherd Project Coordinator*

### Programme offering

We ran one programme during the year, "Introduction to the Bible", which was developed by Old and New Testament Studies, and one of our participants received his certificate with distinction. We are very proud of his achievement.

By the end of 2022, the Centre had six active short learning programmes (SLPs) available for participants to complete online, such as, among others, burial rites in the African context; practical theology in a fast-changing environment, and Christian ritual as a verbal and non-verbal phenomenon.

### Stakeholder relations

When it comes to our stakeholder relations, the Centre had talks with the Chaplain Service Division of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). We are so proud of the working relationship that was formed and that will commence in 2023. We will provide their chaplains with theological training by means of SLPs developed especially for their needs. The Centre also maintained the relationship with the Association of Christian Religious Practitioners (ACRP), the professional body with which the Faculty has an MOU in place. We are proud to confirm that all our programmes carry CPD points with the professional body.

### Events

We always hope to expand our exposure to the market and reach out to our religious communities. The Centre thus honoured an invite on 25 September to Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, by the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches of South Africa (EFCCSA) management to present our programme during their national conference.



*Sinovuyo Mogwasi with some delegates who attended the church conference*



At the end of the year, the Centre hosted a luncheon held at Kovsie Inn to inform the Faculty staff of what is happening at the Centre and to make them aware of our future plans. The turn-out was good and the colleagues

supported our event and endorsed our plans for the upcoming year, namely growth in staff capacity and programme offerings, thereby bringing in more third-stream income for the Faculty.



**Sinovuyo Mogwasi (Shepherd Project Coordinator) received a word of thanks from Rev Petrus Mours (EFCCSA: Honorary Secretary)**



**Sinovuyo Mogwasi received a word of thanks from Rev Petrus Mours (EFCCSA: Honorary Secretary)**



**Sinovuyo Mogwasi gave a presentation to the Faculty colleagues regarding future plans of the Shepherd Centre**

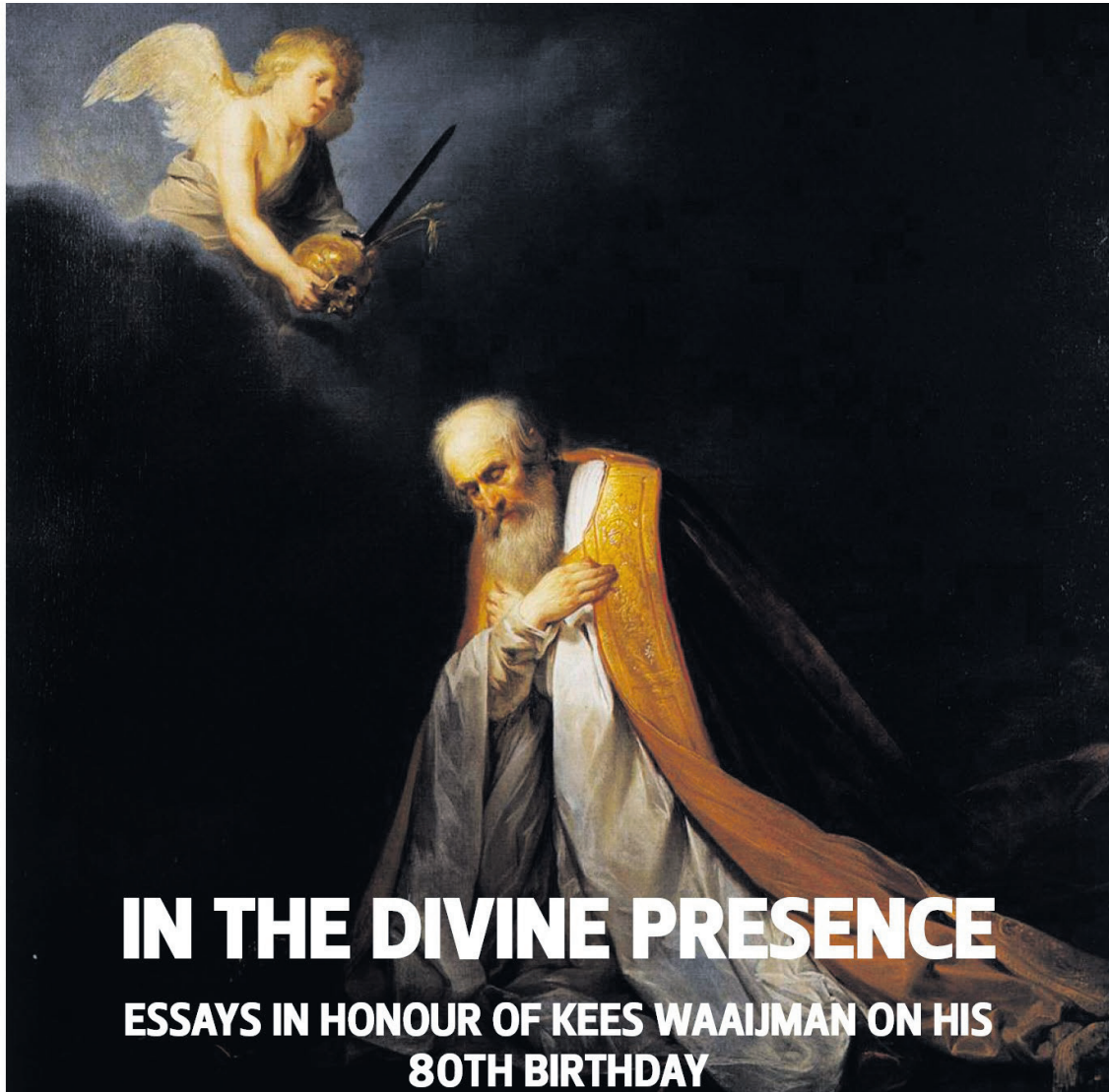
The year 2022 was again a busy year, with numerous highlights for Acta Theologica, the theological journal associated with the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of the Free State. Four issues of the journal were published: the usual two semi-annual issues and two Supplementa. Supplementum 33, entitled *In the divine presence: Essays in honour of Kees Waaijman on his 80th birthday*, was published in June, with Profs De Villiers and Tolmie as guest editors. Supplementum 34, entitled *Considering the doctrine of God: Fragments on Trinity, discourses and time* was published in December, with Prof Venter as the author of this monograph. The publication of high-quality outputs ensures that Acta Theologica is still one of only a small number of theological journals in South Africa that can boast about being on the prestigious Web of Science index.

The editorial board, led by Drs Laubscher (Editor-in-Chief) and Lyzette Hoffman (Executive Editor), meets quarterly. Its working members, appointed from the Faculty staff to represent all the academic departments, are actively involved in the evaluation process of articles, among others. Subeditors, elected from the editorial board members, continued to serve in an advisory and supportive role to the editors. They were responsible for assisting the peer-review process regarding all articles in their respective disciplines, as well as serving the journal with several book reviews and book announcements throughout the year. In 2022, the subeditors and their roles were as follows: Historical and Constructive Theology – Dr Fortein; Old and New Testament Studies – Prof Sutton; Practical and Missional Theology – Prof Baron, and Religion Studies – Prof Mokhoathi.

The professional administrative service by Dr Hanneke Meyer, Editorial Secretary, supported the editorial board in their work in an excellent way. Dr Meyer retired at the end of 2022, and Dr Anne-Lize Koen will be the new Editorial Secretary from 2023. With these continuous high-quality publications, Acta Theologica makes an indispensable contribution towards developing research in theology on both national and international levels.



**Drs Lyzette Hoffman (Executive Editor: Acta Theologica) and Martin Laubscher (Editor-in-Chief: Acta Theologica)**



**IN THE DIVINE PRESENCE**  
**ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF KEES WAAIJMAN ON HIS  
80TH BIRTHDAY**

Acta Theologica Supplementum 33  
Guest editors: Proff. P.G.R. de Villiers & D.F. Tolmie



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA

TRINITY

# CONSIDERING THE DOCTRINE OF GOD: FRAGMENTS ON TRINITY, DISCOURSES, AND TIME

Acta Theologica Supplementum 34  
Rian Venter



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA

## Old and New Testament Studies

### Authored books

- Davage, L.D.** How Isaiah became an author: Prophecy, authority, and attribution. Fortress Press.
- Frey, J.** Qumran and Christian origins. Baylor University Press.
- Myers, A.D.** An introduction to the Gospels and Acts. Oxford University Press.
- Reinhartz, A.** Bible and cinema: An introduction. 2nd edition. Routledge.
- Theobald, M.** Der Prozess Jesu. Mohr Siebeck.

### Chapters in books

- De Villiers, P.G.R.** Death as the ultimate enemy of God and creation: The key to the interpretation of the four horsemen in Revelation 6:1-8. In: Troubling Texts in the New Testament. Peeters.
- Firth, D.G.** Esther and Joshua: Negotiating identity in and out of the land. In: Reading Esther intertextually. Bloomsbury.
- Firth, D.G. & Melton, B.N.** On reading the Twelve Minor Prophets. In: Reading the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets. Lexham Academic.
- Firth, D.G. & Melton, B.N.** In a world without God: Reading Esther alongside Psalms. In: Reading Esther intertextually. Bloomsbury.
- Firth, D.G. & Melton, B.N.** Under the intertextual umbrella. In: Reading Esther intertextually. Bloomsbury.
- Frey, J.** Gottes Offenbarung in Jesu Christus. In: Über Gott. Festschrift für Reinhard Feldmeier zum 70. Geburtstag. Mohr Siebeck.
- Frey, J.** Who is Nathanael? Or: Who can Nathanael be for readers of John? Reception history and biblical scholarship in dialogue. In: The Gospels and their receptions. Peeters.
- Kalman, J.** And a poor man for a pair of shoes: A peculiar exegetical twist on the sale of Joseph. In: The body: lived, culture, adorned. Hebrew Union College Press.
- Kok, J.** Was John's Jesus anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic? Fresh perspectives on John 8:44. In: Troubling texts in the New Testament. Peeters.
- Kok, J.** Knowing God: A Johannine perspective. In: On knowing God: Interdisciplinary theological perspectives. Gorgias Press.
- Kok, J.** Implicit influence of Kittel and Grosheide in the shaping of apartheid in South Africa? The case of E.P. Groenewald. In: Auf dem Weg zu einer Biographie Gerhard Kittels (1888-1948). Mohr Siebeck.
- Kok, J.** Cosmology and social identity complexity in 1 John. In: Neutestamentliche Kosmologien. Brill Schöning.
- Melton, B.N.** Reader-response criticism and recent readers. In: The Biblical World. Routledge.
- Melton, B.N. & Firth, D.G.** On reading the Twelve Minor Prophets. In: Reading the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets. Lexham.
- Peels, H.G.L.** From Egypt to Babylon, or from Elam to Moab? Queries concerning the order of the oracles against the nations in the Book of Jeremiah. In: Prophecy and foreign nations. Mohr Siebeck.
- Reinhartz, A.** A duty of act: Personal reflections on #BlackScholarsMatter. In: Black scholars matter. SBL.
- Reinhartz, A.** Slip slidin' away: Rethinking the "parting of the ways". In: Negotiating identities. Fortress Press.
- Snyman, S.D.** Perspectives on theodicy in Habakkuk and Malachi vis-à-vis Job. In: Reading the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets. Lexham.
- Theobald, M.M.** Von der Henne und ihren Kuken (Lk 13,34f. par. Mt 23:37-39). Ein Gerichtswort Jesu? In: Altes und Neues hervorholen (Mt 13,52). Debatten zur Bibel in Theologie und Kirche. Katholisches Bibelwerk.
- Williams, H.H.D.** Scriptural literacy within the Corinthian Church: From the Corinthian correspondence to 1 Clement. In: Reading, writing, and bookish circles in the Ancient Mediterranean. Bloomsbury.
- Zimmermann, R.G.** Q document means "question document": Form and function of Jesus' questions in the Sayings Source. In: Asking questions in Biblical texts. Peeters.

## Conference proceedings

- Frey, J.** From eternal life to the Word that was in the beginning: The logic of Johannine theology. In: From protology to eschatology. Mohr Siebeck.
- Frey, J.** Anti-Judaism, Philosemitism, and Protestant New Testament Studies: Perspectives and questions. In: Protestant Bible scholarship: Antisemitism, Philosemitism and Anti-Judaism. Brill.
- Frey, J.** Heilvolle Zeit? Linear und existential verstandene Zeit in der Auslegung des Johannesevangeliums bei Oscar Cullmann und Rudolf Bultmann. In: Rudolf Bultmann – Oscar Cullmann: Briefwechsel 1926-1967: Studien zum theologischen und exegetischen Austausch. Mohr Siebeck.
- Frey, J.** The impact of the Qumran and Nag Hammadi discoveries on New Testament scholarship: Dualism in John and Jesus' eschatology as paradigms. In: The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi Codices. Brill.
- Frey, J.** Die Taufe im Johannesevangelium: Forschungsgeschichtliche Perspektiven. In: Taufe und Heil im Johannesevangelium. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- Hoegen-Rohls, C.** Was meint "Geisttaufe" im Johannesevangelium? Ein komparatistisch grundierter Antwortversuch. In: Taufe und Heil im Johannesevangelium. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- Hogeterp, A.L.A.** The origins of sectarian boundary marking and the "shifters of the boundary": The Damascus Document and cultural memory. In: Emerging Sectarianism in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Brill.
- Karakolis, C.** Baptism in the Fourth Gospel: A synchronic reading. In: Taufe und Heil im Johannesevangelium. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- Labahn, A.** Erbe und Annahme der Verheißung als Realisierung des Glaubens – Die Rezeption Abrahams durch Paulus in Gal 3. In: Die Galater und der Brief an die Galater. SZNBKA.
- Labahn, M.** Zur Freiheit befreit: Weite und Grenze der Freiheit bei Paulus im Galaterbrief. In: Die Galater und der Brief an die Galater. SZNBKA.
- Larsen, K.B.** The Lord's prayer in the Fourth Gospel. In: The Lord's Prayer. Mohr Siebeck.
- Reinhartz, A.** Category conflation: History and theology in New Testament Studies. In: Common ground and diversity in Early Christian thought and study. Mohr Siebeck.
- Theobald, M.** Kohärenz und Kontingen: Zur Frage nach einer Periodisierung der Lebensgeschichte des Paulus und den Kriterien ihrer Beantwortung. In: Der 1. Thessalonicherbrief und die frühe Volkermission des Paulus. Mohr Siebeck.
- Theobald, M.** Internal ethos or ethos before the public forum? Titus and his construct of the opponents, In: "Ready for every good work" (Titus 3:1): Implicit Ethics in the Letter to Titus. Mohr Siebeck.
- Zimmermann, R.G.** Ein Bild ist nicht genug. "Mixed metaphors" und ihr Wert für die biblische Gottesrede. In: Gottes-Bilder: Zur Metaphorik biblischer Gottesrede. Kohlhammer.
- Zimmermann, R.G.** Der erzählte Erzähler. In: Das Christusbild in der Gegenwart. WBG.
- Zimmermann, R.G.** The Fables according to Babrius and the New Testament parables. In: Overcoming dichotomies. Mohr Siebeck.
- Zimmermann, R.G. & Zimmermann J.** Freiwilliger Verzicht auf Nahrung und Flüssigkeit. In: Assistierter Suizid. Echter.

## Journal articles

- Bennema, C.** A model of Johannine ethics. *Studies in Christian Ethics* 35(3):433-456.
- De Villiers, P.G.R.** Peace in the spirituality of Thomas á Kempis: An aesthetic perspective on the *Imitatio Christi* 4.25. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 33:137-156.
- Du Toit, H.C.** The continuative relative clause in the Greek New Testament. *Novum Testamentum* 64:162-183.
- Firth, D.G.** Reading Deuteronomy after Joshua: On reversing the interpretative flow. *European Journal of Theology* 31(1):6-20.
- Firth, D.G.** Achan typology in the Former Prophets. *Journal for the Evangelical Society of the Old Testament* 7(2):16-36.
- Fischer, S.** Liebeskrankheit in Hohelied und altägyptischen Liebesliedern/Love-sickness in Song of Songs and ancient Egyptian love songs: A comparison involving conceptual metaphors with a side glance at the Amnon-Tamar narrative. *Protokolle zur Bibel* 31(1):1-22.



- Fischer, S.** Janus parallelism in the Song of Songs: Polysemes, homonyms, and phonological wordplays. *Protokolle zur Bibel* 31(2):77-92.
- Hogeterp, A.L.A.** Trauma in the Apocryphon of Jeremiah C: Cultural trauma as forgetful remembrance of divine-human relations in Qumran Jeremianic traditions. *Open Theology* 8:460-481.
- Jantsch, T.** Jesus as benefactor: A neglected aspect of Luke's Christology. *Novum Testamentum* 64:277-295.
- Larsen, K.B.** Debutanten Jesus – Den første offentlige optræden som motiv I antikke biografier og de nytestamentlige evangelier. *Dansk Teologisk Tidsskrift* 85:259-294.
- Larsen, K.B.** I begyndelsen var... Johannesprologen mellem græsk metafysik og jødisk visdom. *Tidsskriftet Fønix* 2022:172-177.
- O'Sullivan, M.** The foundational influence of early spiritual experiences on adulthood. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 33:190-206.
- Pietersen, C.D.** (Mis)Treatment of women intersecting in the Codes of Hammurabi and Deuteronomy (Ancient Near East and South Africa). *Journal for Semitics* 31(1):1-14.
- Pietersen, C.D.** Leadership re-appropriated for 21st-century women: A reading of Deuteronomy 17:15-20. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103(2):1-9.
- Pietersen, C.D.** Confronting xenophobia in South Africa and the concept of foreigner in Deuteronomy as an act of "othering". *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-8.
- Prinsloo, H.J.** A text-centred rhetorical analysis of 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(1):1-19.
- Reinhartz, A.** Der jüdische Jesus im Johannesevangelium. *Bibel und Kirche* 77(4):204-210.
- Snyman, S.D.** The Trinity and the Old Testament. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Snyman, S.D.** Juxtaposition as literary feature in Psalm 116. In *Luce Verbi* 56(1):1-7.
- Snyman, S.D.** 'n Kritiese evaluering van die bydrae van (prof) WS Prinsloo tot die wetenskap van die Ou Testament. *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe* 62(4):1-14.
- Tolmie, D.F.** God, Christ and the Spirit in Luther and Calvin's commentaries on the Letter to Philemon. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Van Zyl, H.C.** Die trinitariese formule van Matteus 28:19: *Fremdkörper* of gepaste afsluiting vir die Mateusevangelie? *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-9.

## Historical and Constructive Theology

### Authored books

- Mc Bride, J.** *You shall not condemn.* Wipf & Stock.
- Venter, R.** *Considering the doctrine of God: Fragments on Trinity, discourses, and time.* UFS.

### Chapters in books

- Hadebe, N.M.** The crisis of the sexual abuse scandal as catalyst for reform in the Catholic Church. In: *Sexual reformation? Theological and ethical reflections on human sexuality.* Wipf & Stock.
- Hadebe, N.M.** A correction of pastoral care that overlooks the most vulnerable. In: *Can you hear my pain now?* Wipf & Stock.
- Mawson, M.G.** Encountering grace after the fall: The normativity of nature in Protestant ethics. In: *The ethics of grace.* T & T Clark.
- Mawson, M.G.** Being remembered when we forget: Finding God in dementia and suffering. In: *Disciples and friends: Investigations in disability, dementia, and mental health.* Baylor University Press.
- Resane, K.T.** Christ and the neo-Pentecostal preacher on the platform: Catechists or celebrities? In: *Christological paradigm shifts in Prophetic Pentecostalism in South Africa.* Taylor & Francis.
- Van Vlastuin, W.** Jonathan Edwards and the Dutch Great Awakening. In: *Edwards, Germany, and transatlantic contexts.* Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

# Annual Report of Research Outputs

- Van Vlastuin, W.** The fruitfulness of a paradox: The doctrine of the covenant in Wilhelmus à Brakel (1635-1711) reapplied. In: *Covenant: A vital element of reformed theology*. Brill.
- Van Vlastuin, W.** Retrieving the doctrine of the apostasy of the saints in the “Remonstrance”. In: *A landmark in turbulent times*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- Van Vlastuin, W.** Retrieving the concept of *unio mystica cum Christo* for the application to sexuality in a pluralistic postmodern culture. In: *The calling of the church in times of polarization*. Brill.
- Venter, R.** Christian resilience, role of intellectuals, and the centrality of the God symbol: Interaction and changing shape. In: *Resilient religion, resilience, and heart-breaking adversity*. LIT Verlag.

## Conference proceedings

- Resane, K.T.** The church in the midst of COVID-19: Theology of hope. In: *The church during COVID-19 pandemic: Theology of lament, healing and hope*. University of Venda.

## Journal articles

- Coates, A.M. & Kunnuji, J.O.** Towards a contextual theology of conviviality: Tutu, Bonhoeffer and living musical metaphors. *Acta Theologica* 42(2):68-85.
- D’Assonville, V.E.** “The perpetuity of Christ’s reign ...”: Calvin’s interpretation of Psalm 110:1. *Koers Journal* 87(1):1-8.
- Deetlefs, J.P.** Divine attributes in a Trinitarian key. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Delport, K.M.** Karl Barth, Walter Benjamin, and historical mediation: A metaphysical aporia in dialectical theology and Messianic politics. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(1):1-38.
- Delport, K.M.** Between *imperium* and *sacerdotium*. *Religion and Theology* 29:270-291.
- Fortein, E.** Neither white nor black: The Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the colour issue (1881-1982). *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* 48(1):1-21.
- Iheanacho, V.U.** The Catholic Church and prophetic mission: Transitioning Church-State relations in Africa. *Religions* 13:433-456.
- Iheanacho, V.U.** Christianity and medical science: A historical quest for remedy in time of epidemics. *Acta Theologica* 42(1):39-58.
- Iheanacho, V.U.** Historical development of Trinitarian doctrine in Roman Catholicism. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-12.
- Mawson, M.G.** Attending to ageing and decline: Insights from disability theology. *Journal of Disability & Religion* 2022:1-19.
- Pieterse, A.C.** Astrotheology as a prophetic wormhole that relates space-time to eschatological transformation. *Acta Theologica* 42(1):98-119.
- Resane, K.T.** From small country churches to explosion into megachurches: A modern Pentecostal cultural fit for the Assemblies of God in South Africa. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-9.
- Resane, K.T.** Pentecostal theology’s problem (1 Pt 2:2): Maši ke phepa ke le nosi, selabe se tla le motsaya kgamelolo: A Setswana proverb. *HTS Teologiese Studies* 78(4):1-8.
- Resane, K.T.** The influence and the legacy of the Latter Rain Movement on the Neo-Charismatic Movement. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-12.
- Resane, K.T.** Populism versus constitutionalism in South Africa: Engaging public theology through dialogue. In *Luce Verbi* 56(1):1-9.
- Resane, K.T.** Theology and botho/ubuntu in dialogue towards South African social cohesion. *HTS Teologiese Studies* 78(4):1-7.
- Resane, K.T.** Theology in dialogue and dialogue in theology: Destroying the walls of hostility. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Resane, K.T.** The Positive Confession Movement and its influence and legacy on the Neo-Charismatic Movement. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-14.
- Resane, K.T.** Popularity, populism and prophetism in the Neo-Pentecostal movement: The Jehoshaphat-Ahab narrative. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103(2):1-15.
- Resane, K.T.** Puo Pha! African theology as a public theology of dialogue. In *die Skriflig* 56(1):1-7.

- Resane, K.T.** Cessationism and continuationism: Pentecostal trinitarianism balances the tension. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Resane, K.T.** Evangelicals in Africa encountering New Prophetic Churches. *The South African Baptist Journal of Theology* 31:46-63.
- Sands, J.** Confessional discourses, radicalizing traditions: On John Caputo and the theological turn. *Open Theology* 8:38-49.
- Sands, J. & Fourie, D.** Adversarial democracy and the flattening of choice: A Marcusian analysis of Sen's capability theory's reliance upon universal democracy as a means for overcoming inequality. *Open Philosophy* 5:675-688.
- Strauss, P.J.** Apartheid: 'n Verkiesingsvaandel in Suid-Afrika in 1948. *DF Malan en die Nasionale Party in histories-etiese perspektief*. *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe* 62(2):276-290.
- Strauss, P.J.** Die NG Kerk oor "Kerk en Samelewing" voor en na 1994: 'n Evalueer van drie dokumente. In *Luce Verbi* 56(1):1-11.
- Strauss, P.J.** Johan Heyns en Beyers Naudé as profete teen die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk se steun aan apartheid: Heyns van binne en Naudé van buite die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk. In *Luce Verbi* 56(1):1-11.
- Strauss, P.J.** Generaal J.H. de la Rey in Mei 1902: 'n Bittereinder vir vrede. *Koers* 87(1):1-12.
- Strauss, P.J.** Die mislukte sinodale eenwording van die NG Kerk in 1911. *HTS Teologiese Studies* 78(4):1-9.
- Ullrich, C.D.** The future of nothingness: Plastic apocalypticism or an insistent messianic? *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(1):1-24.
- Urbaniak, J.** A White theologian learning how to fall upward. *HTS Teologiese Studies* 78(3):1-9.
- Urbaniak, J.** A critique of H. Kroesbergen's *The language of faith in Southern Africa* (2019). *Black Theology* 20(1):91-98.
- Venter, R.** Divine hiddenness, the melancholic self, and a pandemic spirituality. *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 33:207-225.

## Practical and Missional Theology

### Authored books

- Laubscher, M.** Publieke teologie as profetiese teologie? Sun Media.
- Van den Berg, J.-A., Pembroke, N., Kelly, E., Pleizier, T. & Schmidt, W.S.** Spiritual formation in local faith communities. Wipf & Stock.
- Verster, P.** The Triune God and mission. Wipf & Stock.
- Verster, P.** The church of faith, love, hope, and mission. Sun Media.

### Chapters in books

- Baron, E.** Towards a deepened Christology on the Cape Flats: The "Spirit of Christ" metaphor in the neo-Pentecostal church. In: *Christological paradigm shifts in Prophetic Pentecostalism in South Africa*. Routledge.
- Baron, E.** Ministerial formation of former "Mission Churches" in South Africa: "Missional consciousness" as an enabler for community development. In: *Developing just and inclusive communities*. Regnum Books.
- Baron, E.** Becoming a resilient Christian community: A narrative approach. In: *Resilient religion, resilience and heartbreaking adversity*. LIT Verlag.
- Baron, E. & Botha N.** The Protestant world mission and race discourse. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Mission Studies*. Oxford University Press.
- Hermans, C.A.M.** Human experiences of heartbreaking adversity. In: *Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity*. LIT Verlag.
- Hermans, C.A.M.** Processes of resilience. In: *Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity*. LIT Verlag.
- Hermans, C.A.M.** Resilient religion. In: *Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity*. LIT Verlag.
- Laubscher, M.** Resilient preaching? A critical appraisal of Johan Cilliers' trilogy on "grace". In: *Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity*. LIT Verlag.
- Marsay, G., Atitsogbe, K.A., Ouedraogo, A., Nsubusga, H., Pari, P., Kossi, E.Y., Park, C. & Solberg, V.S.H.** The 4th Industrial Revolution and social and emotional learning in Africa: Implications for educational materials. In: *Educating for the social, the emotional and the sustainable*. NISSEM.

- Meyer, J.** “Surviving my story of trauma”: A pastoral theology of resilience. In: Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity. LIT Verlag.
- Mostert, N.** Collaboration and networking in missions in Africa. In: Mission: The “labour room” of theology. CLF.
- Pali, K.T.** The legacy of white imperialist forces in the leadership of the DRCA FS. In: Critical perspectives on governance, religion and humanitarian aid in Africa. CSSALL.
- Pillay, V.** Engaging people of other world faiths: A guide with the focus on Islam. In: Reformed mission in Southern Africa. GKSA Evangelisation Publication Fund.
- Schoeman, W.J.** The congregation as a community of discernment and practice: Enhancing resilient religion. In: Resilient religion, resilience and heart-breaking adversity. LIT Verlag.
- Van der Watt, G.** Protestant mission in Africa: A historical perspective on translating the gospel. In: Mission: The “labour room” of theology. CLF.

## Journal articles

- Baloyi, E.** Pioneering gendered African theology: A historical perspective of Mary-Anne Elizabeth Plaatjies-Van Huffel. *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* 48(2):1-12.
- Baloyi, E & Pali, J.K.** COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the church landscape in Zimbabwe. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-14.
- Baron, E.** “Coloured”, you’re on your own? A dialectic between Biko’s Black consciousness thought and the post-apartheid conditions of the “Coloured” people in South Africa. *Black Theology* 20(2):125-148.
- Cloete, N.** An African perspective on hamartiology and ecology. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-17.
- Joynt, S.** Religious/spiritual struggles and depression during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns in the Global South: Evidence of moderation by positive religious coping and hope. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* 14(3):325-337.
- Joynt, S.** A systems perspective on human flourishing: Exploring cross-country similarities and differences of a multisystemic flourishing network. *Journal of Positive Psychology* 17(1):1-15.
- Joynt, S. & Broodryk, C.** Redemption in the South African West: Violence, colonialism and oppression in *Five fingers for Marseilles* (2018). In: *Critical Arts – South-North Cultural and Media Studies* 35(5-6):145-163.
- Joynt, S., Bechara, A., Counted V., Cowden, R. & Pargament, K.** Hope and well-being in vulnerable contexts during the COVID-19 pandemic: Does religious coping matter? *Journal of Positive Psychology* 17(1):70-81.
- Joynt, S. et al.** Religious coping with interpersonal hurts: Psychosocial correlates of the brief RCOPE in four non-western countries. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* 15(1):43-55.
- Laubacher, M.** The (demanding) history of South African public theology as prophetic theology. *Luce Verbi* 56(1):1-7.
- Louw, D.J.** Living wounds (Anfechtungen) or blacksmithing of the human soul? The pastoral art of marvellous exchange (mirifica commutation) in spiritual well-being. *Acta Theologica* 42(1):59-83.
- Louw, D.J.** Unravelling the collision of rigid religious mindsets: Towards “cross-religious tabernacling” within a praxis of interpathetic transpection in pastoral caregiving: A hermeneutical approach. *Scriptura* 121(1):1-19.
- Louw, D.J.** Grave as space for grace: “Come you sweet hour of death!” On seeing the beauty of ageing and dying within an aesthetics of mortality and decay (human decomposition). *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(1):1-27.
- Marchinkowski, G.W.** Where “the unbelievable and the obvious collide”: Spiritual practices and everyday life. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Marchinkowski, G.W.** Swinging between two poles. Henri Nouwen’s unique metaphor for spiritual transformation. *Acta Theologica* 42(2):243-260.
- Marsay, G.** Educator’s perspectives on the relevance of social and emotional learning skills in South Africa. *Perspectives in Education* 40(4):215-226.
- Mokone, P.C. & Pali, K.J.** The significance of integration of families of seminarians in the Roman Catholic ministerial formation in South Africa. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-17.
- Pali, J.K. & Baloyi, E.** COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the church landscape in Zimbabwe. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-14.

- Pali, K.J. & Mokone, P.C.** The significance of integration of families of seminarians in the Roman Catholic ministerial formation in South Africa. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-17.
- Roeland, J. & Wisse, M.** Building blocks for developing a research question: The ABC model. *Teaching Theology and Religion* 25(1):22-34.
- Schoeman, W.J.** Tracing the Trinity in doing practical theology. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-7.
- Struwig, D.M.** Finding God as a millennial. *Acta Theologica* 42(1):120-138.
- Van der Watt, G.** Tracing the Murray family's footprints during the founding years of the Dutch Reformed Church Free State and the Reformed Church in Zambia. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(3):51-73.
- Verster, P.** Perspectives on church and mission: The missional church and metaphors for the church. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1):1-9.
- Verster, P.** Lewe en dood en die religieuse aspekte van plaasvervanging in *Fees van die ongenooies* (P.G. du Plessis) en *De aanslag* (Harry Mulisch) en die filmweergawes van die romans. *Journal for Christian Scholarship* 58(1/2):35-58.
- Verster, P.** *La vie devant soi*: Die lewe lê voor, maar ook agter ons: Hoop vir die toekoms uit traumatiese verledes? *Literator – Journal of Literary Criticism, Comparative Linguistics and Literary Studies* 43(1):1-11.
- Verster, P.** Church and community: New hope for Africa. *Missionalia* 50(1):59-73.
- Verster, P.** Godsgeloof in die moderne wêreld: 'n Reaksie op Du Toit, Dawkins en hulle medestanders. *Journal for Christian Scholarship* 58(3&4):1-24.
- Wessels, W.G.P.** Towards struggle as lived experience: Contemplation on homiletic research for a (post-)pandemic world. *Acta Theologica* 42(1):158-173.
- Wessels, W.G.P.** Identity, power, and responsibility: Reflections on prophetic preaching in South Africa. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 8(2):1-22.

## Religion Studies

### Authored books

- Boaheng, I.** A handbook for African mother-tongue Bible translators. Vernon Press.
- Boaheng, I.** From Sebewie to Sebetutu: A theological and missiological analysis of the life and ministry of Prophet Sampson Kwame Oppong. Noyam Publishers.

### Chapters in books

- Chireshe, E.** Sexual and reproductive health challenges encountered by female learners and female staff at an institution of higher learning in Zimbabwe. In: *Religion, women's health rights, and sustainable development in Zimbabwe: Volume 1*. Noyam Publishers.
- Chireshe, E.** Access to land ownership and gender in light of African Indigenous Religion in Zimbabwe amongst the Shona in Chiredzi District Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe. In: *Mother earth, mother Africa: World religions and environmental imagination*. SunMedia.

### Journal articles

- Boaheng, I.** Theology of the cross in African Evangelicalism: Implications for contemporary Christianity. *Social Sciences, Humanities and Education Journal (SHE Journal)* 3(2):207-221.
- Boaheng, I.** Exploring the nexus between Akan and Christian perspectives on atonement. *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review* 5(6):1-11.
- Boaheng, I.** Theological and ethical reflections on surrogacy from an African perspective. *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review* 5(5):277-288.
- Boaheng, I.** A theological appraisal of the recapitulation and ransom theories of atonement. *E-Journal of Religious and Theological Studies (ERATS)* 8(4):98-108.



- Boaheng, I.** Abanpredease Christology: A Christological interpretation of Dormaahene's chieftaincy appellations. *Journal of Mother-Tongue Biblical Hermeneutics and Theology (MOTBIT)* 4(1):1-15.
- Boaheng, I.** Exploring the contextual implications of Kofi Abrefa Busia's socio-political ethics for contemporary Ghana. *Social Sciences, Humanities and Education Journal (SHE Journal)* 3(1):40-51.
- Boaheng, I.** Is online theological education suitable for spiritual/ministerial formation? A response from an African perspective. *E-Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (EHASS)* 3(3):27-42.
- Boaheng, I.** Rethinking development in Africa: Agenda 2063 and John Wesley's socio-political theology. *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review* 5(9):364-378.
- Boaheng, I.** A Christological reflection on Papa Yaw Johnson's "Fa wo ntoma bebo me dee ano". *Journal of Mother-Tongue Biblical Hermeneutics and Theology (MOTBIT)* 4(3):57-70.
- Boaheng, I.** A theological and ethical reflection on digital ecclesiology from an African perspective. *Social Sciences, Humanities and Education Journal (SHE Journal)* 3(3):480-493.
- Boaheng, I.** A study of John 21:15-17: Implications for Christian ministry. *E-Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (EHASS)* 3:636-647.
- Boaheng, I.** Soteriology as empowerment in the Gospel of Luke: Implications for Ghanaian Christianity. *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review* 5(12):89-97.
- Boaheng, I. & Appiah, A.** A study of the background to the Book of Amos. *E-Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (EHASS)* 3(9):372-381.
- Boaheng, I. & Appiah, A.** A thematic and literary analysis of Amos 5:4-7, 10-15: Implications for Ghanaian leaders. *E-Journal of Religious and Theological Studies (ERATS)* 8(8):241-252.
- Boaheng, I. & Boahen, S.** Theological and ethical reflections on care for widows from an African Christian perspective. *E-Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (EHASS)* 3(4):102-114.
- Boaheng, I. & Korankye, J.** A Christian view of stewardship: A study of Daniel 6:1-4. *E-Journal of Religious and Theological Studies (ERATS)* 8(6):156-165.
- Boaheng, I., Twumasi-Ankrah, E., Antwi, E.K.E. & Wiafe, W.** An analytical study of the translations of Genesis 1:26-27 in the Akuapem-Twi Bible. *Journal of Mother-Tongue Biblical Hermeneutics and Theology (MOTBIT)* 4(3):45-56.
- Mokhoathi, J.** "I am an African": A philosophical enquiry of identity and culture. *Journal of Black Studies* 53(1):92-108.
- Mokhoathi, J.** Pragmatism in the lenses of African Christianity: An emic approach to lived religions. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103(2):1-9.
- Mokhutso, J.** Ubuntu: A countermeasure for challenges of child-rearing. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-20.
- Mokhutso, J.** Exploring the trends and dynamics of poverty in South Africa. *Gender and Behaviour* 20(1):19010-19031.
- Mokhutso, J.** Ubuntu is under siege: A reflection on the challenges of South Africa then and now. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-20.
- Mokhutso, J.** An analysis of the cases of teenagers dying in taverns in South Africa: Some Biblical and African considerations. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103(2):1-15.
- Mokhutso, J.** Ancestors are demonic: Is it true? Traversing Christian demonology and African traditional religion. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103(2):1-20.
- Mokotso, R.I.** Redefining inclusive religion education in Lesotho schools: A colonial discourse analysis. *Scriptura* 121(1):1-14.
- Mokotso, R.I.** Considering the Basotho indigenous education and school system as resources for peace-building education in Lesotho. *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa* 18(1):1-10.
- Mokotso, R.I.** Decoloniality of school governance in Lesotho: A religio-historical approach. *Pharos Journal of Theology* 103:1-12.

















©All rights reserved  
Faculty of Theology and Religion Annual Report 2022  
Acting Dean: Prof. D.F. Tolmie



University of the Free State  
205 Nelson Mandela Drive Park West  
Bloemfontein, 9300  
Academic Adviser  
T: (+27)051 401 2786  
E: [theology@ufs.ac.za](mailto:theology@ufs.ac.za)

