



2025 Conference

**BLACK RADICAL TRADITIONS: FRAMING BLACK  
THOUGHT FOR CONTEMPORARY ACTION**



**07-11 JULY 2025**

**PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**

**Primary Hosts: University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria**

**Venue: University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria**

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

### Pre-Conference Program: Mon-Tue, July 7-8:

July 7: 9:00-5:00 UNISA campus tour and Freedom Park  
July 8: 9:00-5:00 Mamelodi Township immersion

### Conference Program

#### Wednesday, July 9:

9:30 a.m. Invocation ([CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE](#))  
9:35 Welcome and opening remarks: Professor Puleng LenkaBula, VC/Principal, UNISA  
9:50 Conference Purpose and overview (Prof. Itumeleng Mothoagae / Prof. Rothney Tshaka)  
10:00 Plenary 1: Black Social Progress Under Fire: Strategic Assessments and Responses  
11:30 Tea break  
11:45 Concurrent Panels ([C1](#), [C2](#), [C3](#), [C4](#) panels)  
1:15 Lunch  
2:00 [Keynote Address](#): Rev. Mitri Raheb  
3:00 Tea break  
3:15 Concurrent Panels: ([C5](#), [C6](#), [C7](#), [C8](#) panels)  
4:45 Closing summary and remarks  
5:00 Adjournment

#### Thursday, July 10

9:30 a.m. Invocation  
9:35 Opening remarks ([CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE](#))  
9:45 Plenary 2: Religion and Female Empowerment  
11:15 Tea break  
11:30 Keynote Address: Rev. Dr. Ebony Grisom  
12:30 Lunch  
1:30 Plenary 3: Gen-Z Student Reflections on Faith-Based Justice Activism (Hybrid)  
3:30 Tea break  
3:45 Breakout Groups (Hybrid): Intergenerational Praxis  
4:45 Closing summary and remarks  
5:00 Adjournment  
6:30 [Awards Ceremony](#)

#### Friday, July 11

9:00 Invocation  
9:05 Opening remarks ([CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE](#))  
9:15 Plenary 4: Faith-Based Activism and Strategic Technologies  
10:45 Tea break  
11:00 Keynote Address: Rev. Dr. Anthony Reddie  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Concurrent Panels ([C9](#), [C10](#), [C11](#), [C12](#) panels)  
2:30 Tea break  
2:45 Breakout Groups: Implementation and Embodiment Strategies ([CLICK HERE](#))  
3:45 Group Reports Plenary  
4:30 Final Overview and Challenge  
4:45 Closing Ceremony  
5:00 Closing Benediction

## PANELS, PANELISTS, AND SPEAKERS

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Rev. Dr. Ebony Grison, Chaplain and Director for Protestant Life, Georgetown University, USA

\*Rev. Mitri Raheb, Pastor, Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Palestine

\*Rev. Dr. Anthony Reddie, Professor of Black Theology at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, UK

### PLENARY PANELS:

#### Plenary 1: Black Social Progress Under Fire: Strategic Assessments and Responses

Dr. Sombo Muzata, James Madison University

Her Excellency Joan Thomas Edwards, High Commissioner of Jamaica to South Africa

His Excellency Jacques Junior Baril, Haiti Ambassador to South Africa

Hon. Arley Gill, Grenada National Reparations Commission and former CARICOM Ambassador

#### Plenary 2: Religion and Female Empowerment

Rev. Dawn Sanders (USA), Black women, socio-economic disparities, and entrepreneurialism

Ms. Karabo Makgoba (South Africa), Identities, interactions, and intersectionality in South Africa

Dr. Amos Muyambo (Botswana), Seeing African Independent Churches through Katie Cannon's theology

Rev. Dr. Peter Obuchukwu (Nigeria), Digital impacts on Nigerian women's sexuality and spirituality

#### Plenary 3: Gen-Z Student Reflections on Faith-Based Justice Activism (Hybrid)

*Moderator: Dr. Ronald Peters (USA)*

Ms. Trinity Gibb-Peters (USA), Speaking up against injustice

\*Ms. Faith Tonui (Kenya), Prayers, protests, and power: Gen-Z activism in Kenya

Mr. Kenneth Lomax (USA), Social injustice in sports

Ms. Kya Lomax (USA), The black educator's experience within public schools

Ms. Neveah Gibb-Peters (USA), Health care without conditions

Mr. Ikenna Chinagorom Ezenwa (Nigeria)

Ms. Shatadi Phoshoko (South Africa)

#### Plenary 4: Faith-Based Activism and Strategic Technologies

Dr. Erika Gault (USA), Voting rights, religion, and technologies of resistance

Mr. Vidal Montgomery (USA), Metadata and black use of Web 2.0 for critical conversation

Dr. Faraja Kritomus Lugome (Tanzania), Ideology and Tanzanian religious Kiswahili newspapers

Mr. Jamye Wooten (USA), Black church technology, Pan-Africanism, and global black futures

### CONCURRENT PANELS

#### Panel C1: Insurgent Movements and Textual Sources

Dr. Tshifhiwa Netshapapame (South Africa), White supremacy, the Exodus story, and African resistance

Rev. Dr. Daniel Morris-Chapman (UK), Colonial identities and contemporary resistance in Cameroon

\*Rev. Dr. Felix Nyika (Malawi), The contemporary significance of Malawi's John Chilembwe uprising

\*Rev. Dr. Keith Burton (USA), Readings of John's Apocalypse and critiques of white supremacy

#### Panel C2: Ecclesiologies, Pastoral Practice, and Formations of Justice

Rev. Dr. Lutiniko Landu Miguel Pedro (Angola), Mennonite Brethren partnerships in Angola and DRC

Rev. Timothy Findley, Jr. (USA), Pastoral resistance to racism in contemporary Louisville

Rev. Nelson Ajime (Cameroon), Mystical societies and women's spirituality and radicalism in Cameroon

\*Rev. Cornell Jones (Pittsburgh Group Violence Intervention), Incarceration, faith, and community reintegration

#### Panel C3: Colonial Era Religion and Resistance

Dr. Ndongani Mavundla (South Africa), Lekhotla la Bafo's reading of colonialism in Lesotho

Prof. Mokhele Madise (S. Africa), Racism and 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodism & Ethiopianism in South Africa

Dr. Jualynne Dodson (USA), British Protestant racism and black resistance in the colonial Americas

\*Rev. Dr. Alfred Sebahene (Tanzania), Colonial injustices and African reparations demands

#### **Panel C4: (De)Colonial Black Ontologies and Identities**

Dr. Anne Bailey (Jamaica) Lessons from heroes of Africa and its Diaspora  
Mr. William Bell, Jr. (USA), Marriage, polygyny considerations, and black social stability  
Dr. Allen Wefwafwa (South Africa), Colorization and stigmatization in South Africa  
\*Ms. Chenita White (USA), Oscar Micheaux, colorism, and black filmmaking

#### **Panel C5: Conditions, Consciousness, and Power**

Dr. Michael R. Fisher, Jr. (USA), Poverty knowledge, urban studies, and black study  
Mr. Fabian Oliver (South Africa), Theological perpetuations of metaphysical violence  
Dr. Sandiswa Kobe (South Africa), Race, poverty, and South African paradigms of change  
Mr. Ayanda Mdokwana (South Africa), Towards a Liberative Africanist Moral Ontology

#### **Panel C6: Education and Epistemologies**

Dr. Renee Sartin (USA), Black faculty and staff in our white universities  
Dr. Curtis Ross Love (South Africa), Roland Barthes as resource in decolonizing theological education  
Ms. Mmabatho Montse (South Africa), Indigenous knowledge and resistance pedagogies  
Rev. Dr. Charles Gilmer (USA), Theological education, reparations, and a theory of justice

#### **Panel C7: Transatlantic Black Religious Nationalist Identities\***

*\*Moderator: Dr. Kevin Burrell (Canada)*

\*Dr. Anne Marie Beals (Canada), Afro-indigenous identity, resistance, and movement-making  
\*Dr. Walter Isaac (USA), African American Judaism  
\*Dr. Anna Perkins (Jamaica), Rasta Ethics of Political (Dis)engagement  
\*Dr. Xavier Pickett (USA), Black Rage and James Cone's Black Theology and Black Power

#### **Panel C8: Decoloniality as Black Religious Practice**

Prof. Itumeleng Mothoagae (South Africa), Land, whiteness, and decoloniality in South Africa  
Rev. Dr. Elias Opongo, (Kenya) Nkrumah, Mandela, and the politics of decolonization  
Rev. Derrick Kalanga (Zambia), Black self-determination and legacies of African decolonization  
Dr. Eric Betts (USA), Du Bois, liberative praxis, and pastoral vocation

#### **Panel C9: Globalizations of Critical Race Analysis**

Dr. Gosnell Yorke (Zambia), African Union and triangulation of "Global Africa"  
Dr. Eugene Fortein (South Africa), Allan Boesak's critiques of apartheid and global apartheid  
Drs. N. Moletsane/A. Muyambo (Botswana), Colonial fragmentation and contemporary pan-African unity  
Rev. Ronald Nathan (UK), Pan-Africanism as framework for resistance and solidarity in today's Palestine  
Rev. Thomas TJ Williams (USA), White supremacy, US AID cutbacks, and Africa

#### **Panel C10: Beyond Traditionalist Christian Thought and Socio-Religious Practices**

Rev. Dr. Michele Watkins (USA), Malcolm X, African humanism, and transatlantic radical traditions  
Ms. Dorcas Fakile and Mr. Steven Ulysse (UK), Diaspora spiritualities, ontologies, and neurodivergence  
Rev. Dr. Luke Tamu (Kenya), Divine revelation and African traditional religions  
\*Rev. Dr. Xavier Johnson (USA), Interfaith dialogue between Haitian Vodou and Haitian Protestant Christianity

#### **\*Panel C11: Media and Social Media Platforming of Theological Resistance**

--A Dialogue between Ms. Yolande A. Cadore (USA) and Dr. Charlene Sinclair (USA)

#### **Panel C12: Contours of Resistance Praxis Revisited**

Mr. Headman Ntlapo (South Africa), Social justice activism in the South African township of Zwelihle  
Mr. Thabang Dladla (South Africa), Liberative approaches within social sciences and philosophy  
\*Dr. Kesewa John (UK), Black women and the Caribbean radical tradition  
\*Mr. Steven Joseph (USA), Material and ideological power and control

*\*Virtual modality*

# Transatlantic Bridgebuilder Awardee Ceremony

Thursday, 10 July 2025  
18:30 (SAST) / 12:30 (EST)

## *Transatlantic Bridgebuilder Awardees*



*Invocation* Rev. Dr. Waltrina Middleton

*Welcome* Professor Rothney S. Tshaka

*TRRR Reflection* Dr. William Ackah

*Presentation of Awards:* Prof. R. Drew Smith and Prof. Itumeleng Mothoagae

### **Awardees:**

Rev. Dr. Allan Aubrey Boesak

Rev. Dr Iva E. Carruthers

Professor Jesse N. K. Mugambi

Professor Mercy Amba Oduyoye

Professor Kofi Asare Opoku

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue (in memoriam)

Professor Vuyani Vellem (in memoriam)

*Closing Remarks:* Professor Puleng LenkaBula, Vice Chancellor, UNISA

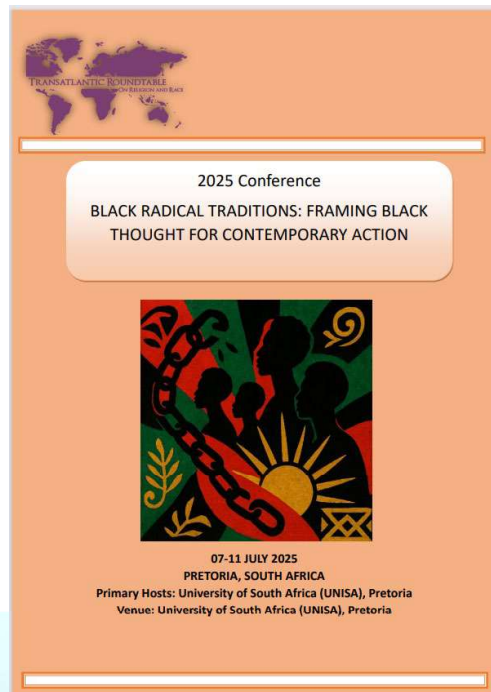
*Benediction:* Professor Gosnell Yorke

## Conference Speakers Index

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### 2025 Conference Host Committee and Organizers

Prof. Rothney Tshaka (UNISA); Prof. Itumeleng Mothoagae (UNISA);  
 Prof. R. Drew Smith (Pittsburgh Seminary); Dr. William Ackah (Birkbeck-University of London)

### 2025 TRRR Coordinating Committee

William Ackah (chair); Stephanie Boddie (USA); Yolande Cadore (USA); Faith Chelangat (Kenya);  
 Rosemary Chilufya (Zambia); Michael R. Fisher, Jr (USA); Itumeleng Mothoagae (South Africa); Nelly Mwale  
 (Zambia); Ronald Nathan (Barbados); Elias Opongo (Kenya); R. Drew Smith (USA); Faith Tanui (Kenya);  
 Rothney Tshaka (South Africa); Jamye Wooten (USA); Gosnell Yorke (Zambia)

### 2025 Collaborating Institutions

