



TRANSATLANTIC ROUNDTABLE ON RELIGION AND RACE

with THE VOICE AND VOICELESSNESS PROJECT, UNISA



2014 Conference

SOCIAL STRUGGLE AND FAITH-BASED ACTIVISM IN “BLACK EMPOWERMENT” TIMES



JULY 10-16, 2014

9:00-5:00

**KGORONG BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**

Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

Thu-Sun, July 10-13: Pre-Conference Program, Diepsloot, Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Soweto
Thurs., 9:30-5:00 Apartheid Museum and Soweto tour (pick –up from conference hotels, 9:30 a.m.)
Fri., 9:30-5:00 Mamelodi Lesedi Secondary School (group dialogue), Pretoria sites (9:30 pick-up)
Sat., 9:00-9:00 Pilanesberg Game Reserve & Hartebeespoort Arts & Crafts Market (9:00 pick-up)
Sun., 9:30 a.m. Worship services in Sunnyside

Monday, July 14:

9:00 a.m. Introduction and Welcome (Prof. Rothney Tshaka, Prof. Relebohile Moletsane, and Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae, Host Conveners)
9:10 Opening Remarks (Prof. Narend Baijnath, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Univ. of South Africa)
9:30 Framing the Context (Prof. R. Drew Smith, Co-Convener)
9:45 Plenary Panel #1: Bearing Witness to Social Marginalization and Neglect
11:15 Tea Break
11:30 Plenary Panel #2: Reflections on Social Challenges from across Southern Africa
1:00 Lunch
1:45 Concurrent Panels 1 and 2
3:15 Break
3:30 Plenary Panel #3: Black 'Life' Expectancy: Faith Responses to Social Violence and HIV/AIDS
5:00 Adjourn afternoon session

Tuesday July 15:

9:00 a.m. Recap and preliminary synopsis, (Dr. William Ackah, Co-Convener)
9:05 Plenary Panel #4: Cross-Sector Collaborations, Conflicts, and Critiques in Response to Social Struggle
10:35 Tea break
11:00 Concurrent Panels 3 and 4
12:30 Lunch
1:30 Concurrent Panels 5 and 6
3:00 Adjourn to evening off-site venue
5:00 Dinner at City Methodist Mission (separate charge)
6:00 Consultation on Urban Ministry—City Methodist Mission (separate charge)

Wednesday, July 16:

9:30 a.m. Recap and preliminary synopsis (Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae, Co-Convener)
9:35 Plenary Panel #5: Religious Traditions and Liberative Activist Paradigms
11:05 Tea break
11:30 Plenary Panel #6: Toward a Critical Christian Assessment of Political Leadership
1:00 Luncheon Plenary Dialogue: Mass Incarceration, Drug Policies, and Comm. Impact
2:00 Plenary #7: Strategic Action Workgroups and Planning Session
3:30 Break
3:45 Final Overview and Challenge
4:30 Adjourn
6:30 Dinner at Farm Inn, Pretoria (separate charge)

Panels and Panelists

Plenary Panel 1: Bearing Witness to Social Marginalization and Neglect in South Africa

Professor Relebohile Moletsane, Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (rural women in KwaZulu-Natal)
Dr. Stephan De Beer, Univ. of Pretoria (urban poverty and marginalization of the poor in Pretoria)
Professor R. Drew Smith, Pittsburgh Seminary (migrant struggles and church responses in Pretoria)
Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae, Univ. of South Africa (church & community in an informal settlement)
Dr. Vuyani Vellem, Univ. of Pretoria (church & community in an informal settlement)
Ms. Vuyelwa Mtimkulu, V.T. Mtimkulu Therapy Solutions (congregational social outreach, Atteridgeville)

Plenary Panel 2: Reflections on Social Challenges from across Southern Africa

Dr. Kudzai Biri, Univ. of Zimbabwe (religion and politics in Zimbabwe)
Dr. Nico Horn, University of Namibia (human rights in Namibia)
Dr. Paul Leshota, National University of Lesotho (disabilities and HIV/AIDS in Lesotho)

Plenary Panel 3: Black 'Life' Expectancy: Faith Responses to Social Violence and HIV/AIDS

Ms. Ndumie Funda, Luleki Sizwe, Cape Town (the problem of rape in South Africa)
Rev. Desmond Lesejane, Sonke Gender Justice Network (abuse of women in South Africa)
Ms. Lyn van Rooyen, Christian AIDS Bureau of Southern Africa (faith responses to HIV/AIDS)
Mr. Crispin Hemson, Intl. Centre on Nonviolence (on school and youth violence in South Africa)
Rev. Michael McBride, PICO National Network (gun violence and mass incarceration in the U.S.)

Plenary 4: Cross-Sector Collaborations, Conflicts, and Critiques in Response to Social Struggle

Dr. Raymond Kumalo, Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal (church-state relations in South Africa)
Mr. Mervyn Abrahams, Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Soc. Action (cross-sector work, S. Af.)
Dr. Lionel R. Louw, Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust (ecumenical activism in Stellenbosch, S. Afr.)
Dr. William Ackah, University of London, Birkbeck (black migration, faith, and social engagement)

Plenary Panel 5: Religious Traditions and Liberative Activist Paradigms

Prof. Denise Ferreira da Silva, Univ. of London (faith and competing race, class, and gender claims)
Dr. Tracey Hucks, Haverford College (Yoruba activist frameworks)
Prof. MS Tshehla, UNISA (Basotho religious traditions and social activism)
Dr. Desmond van der Water, Council for World Mission, UK (post-colonial approaches to missions)
Dr. Tamelyn Tucker-Worgs, Hood College (M. L. King, Jr. and contemporary policy applications)

Plenary 6: Toward a Critical Christian Assessment of Political Leadership

Prof. Nico Koopman, Univ. of Stellenbosch (South African public theology)
Ms. Rachel Schneider, Rice University (white liberalism in South Africa)
Dr. Forrest Harris, Vanderbilt University (M.L. King, Mandela, and transcontinental social justice)
Prof. Charles Brown, Payne Theo. Seminary (ethical measurements for uses of socio-political power)

Luncheon Plenary Dialogue: Mass Incarceration, Drug Policies, and Community Impact

Dr. Iva Carruthers, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (incarceration and family/community impact)
Ms. Yolande Cadore, Ms. Jill Harris, Ms. Theshia Naidoo, Ms. Alexis Posey, Drug Policy Alliance (avoiding the mistakes of the U.S. approach)

Plenary 7: Strategic Action Dialogue and Workgroups

CONCURRENT PANELS

Panel 1: Youth and Enduring Social Struggle

Dr. Akwasi Arko-Achemfuor, Univ. of South Africa (Pentecostal youth in South Africa)
Prof. Reggie Nel, Univ. of South Africa (youth resistance in South African townships)
Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae, Univ. of South Africa (critique of violence against South African children)
Dr. Eva Shaw-Taylor, Institute Diaspora & Afr. Culture (U.S. gangs and church responses)

Panel 2: Religious Reassessment of Economic Inequality

Mr. Chris Jones, Univ. of Stellenbosch (economic inequality)

Dr. Mogomme Masoga, Univ. of South Africa (relative poverty)

Rev. Dumisane Methula, Univ. of South Africa (land mal-distribution)

Dr. Jannie Swart, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary (slum housing and anti-poverty theologies)

Panel 3: Social Disparities, Religious Resources, and Mass Incarceration

Prof. Mokhele Madise, Univ. of South Africa (educational and economic disparities)

Prof. Leah Fitchue Payne Theo./Ms. Ebony Fitchue, Howard U., (educ. disparities and mass incarceration)

Prof. Ronald Peters, Presbyterian Church, USA (recidivism and religious intervention)

Mr. Taurean Webb, Northwestern U. (critical responses to mass incarceration)

Panel 4: Religious Aesthetical and Normative Social Resources

Dr. Dianne Diakite, Emory University (traditional African “mother” symbolism and social activism)

Mr. Baba Buntu, Univ. of South Africa (traditional religious anti-misogyny paradigms)

Dr. Joy Bostic, Case Western Reserve Univ. (black church arts and protest)

Panel 5: Church Facilitation of Socialization, Religious Formation, and Empowerment

Ms. Sarah Farmer, Emory University (youth invisibility and art)

Dr. Donn Worgs, Towson University (black church-related schools)

Rev. Cari Jackson, Center of Spiritual Light (leadership formation and empowerment)

Rev. Daniel Chapman, Presbyterian Theo. Sem. (prosperity gospel empowerment claims)

Panel 6: Christian Paradigms of Reconciliation and Healing

Dr. Karen Crozier, Fresno Pacific Univ. (affirmative action as community healing)

Dr. Harold Lewis, Episcopal Church USA (Christian perspectives on HIV/AIDS)

Dr. Melinda Contreras-Byrd, Generations Center (psychotherapy, normativity, and socio-rel. affirmation)

Dr. Ekwutosi Offiong/Ms. Asibong Offiong, Univ. of Calabar (churches and health care in Nigeria)

CONFERENCE CO-CONVENERS

Itumeleng Mothoagae

R. Drew Smith

Relebohile Moletsane

Rothney Tshaka

William Ackah

COLLABORATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Voice and Voicelessness Project
University of South Africa



College of Human Sciences
University of South Africa



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, USA



Centre for Contextual Ministry



Drug Policy Alliance



Centre for Public Theology



Ujamaa Centre for Biblical
and Theological Community Research

