



**Joint Conference of
Academic Societies in the
Fields of Religion and
Theology**
22 - 26 June 2009

Background

In the 1990s the South African Academy of Religion (SAAR) hosted a number of conferences where various academic societies in the field of religion and theology participated. This initiative could not be sustained for various reasons. Following extensive consultations a significant number of societies decided to host a joint conference again in 2009. A planning committee was established for this purpose with representatives from each society. This conference is organized on an ad hoc basis and in such way that the normal annual meeting of each society takes place in the same venue and during the same time. The Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University offered to host this conference to coincide with its celebrations of 150 years of teaching theology in Stellenbosch.

Participating Academic Societies

- Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa
- Catholic Theological Society of Southern Africa
- Church History Society
- Church Law Society of South Africa
- Circle for Concerned African Women Theologians
- New Testament Society of South Africa
- Old Testament Society of South Africa
- Society for Practical Theology
- South African Academy of Religion
- South African Missiological Society
- South African Science and Religion Forum
- Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies
- Theological Society of South Africa

Keynote Speakers

The following eminent South African scholars have accepted invitations as keynote speakers during the 6 open plenary sessions at the conference.

Denise Ackermann is presently an extraordinary professor at the Faculty of Theology of Stellenbosch University. Her interests span the discipline of Practical Theology, including the interface of gender, culture and faith, and Christian spirituality. The title of her paper is: “Found wanting or left untried? Reflections of a feminist theologian of praxis”.

John de Gruchy is Emeritus Professor of Christian Studies at the University of Cape Town, and Extraordinary Professor at Stellenbosch University. He is internationally known for his work on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The title of his paper is: “Transforming Traditions: Doing theology in South Africa today”.

David Chidester is Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa at the University of Cape Town. His books include *Savage Systems: Colonialism and Comparative Religion in Southern Africa*, *Christianity: A Global History*, and *Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture*. The title of his paper is: “Darwin’s Dogs: Animals, Animism, and the Problem of Religion”.

Gerald West is Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Hermeneutics and Director of the Ujamaa Centre for Community Development and Research in the School of Religion and Theology, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has published extensively in the field of African biblical interpretation. The title of his paper is: “Interpreting sacred texts - particularly the Bible - in the context of HIV and AIDS in Africa”.

Isabel Apawo Phiri is currently a Professor of African Theology in the School of Religion and Theology at the University of KwaZulu Natal. Her research interests are focused on women, in African religions and culture. The title of her paper is: “Going through the fire with eyes wide open: A theological analysis of indigenous songs for critiquing patriarchy in the prevention of HIV and AIDS”.

Tinyiko Maluleke is a Professor of African Theology at the Department of Systematic Theology and Theological Ethics at UNISA. A missiologist by training, Prof Maluleke has worked in the areas of the interface between mission history and secular history, gender and theology, race and theology culture and theology. He currently serves as the Executive Director for Research at UNISA. He is also the current president of the South African Council of Churches. The title of his paper is: “Black and African Theologies in the 21st Century: Stirring up the Agenda”.

Call for Papers and Conference Programme

The call for papers for this conference will be issued through the established channels of each of the participating academic societies. If you are interested in participating in the programme you are therefore kindly requested to contact the secretary of the relevant society in this regard. The call for papers of each society will also be posted on the web site of the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University (www.sun.ac.za/theology). Each society will have its own procedures and deadlines in this regard, but the programme will be finalised by 31 March 2009. The full programme will include more than 200 presentations. Details on the speakers and themes will be finalised by the various participating societies. The detailed programme for the conference will be available in an electronic format by 30 April 2009. It will be sent by email to those who have registered together with a confirmation of their registration. Printed copies of the programme will be available during registration at the conference itself.



Other Programme Highlights

In addition the programme of the conference will include the following highlights:

- A Host's Reception (Monday 22 June, 19h30).
- The Van Selms lecture on "History, literature and Memory by Yehoshua Gitay (UCT) (Tuesday 23 June, 18h30).
- A panel discussion on theological education organised by Paul Gundani, including contributions by Ezra Chitando, Francois Swanepoel, Philomena Mwaura and K. Mofokeng (Wednesday 24 June, 8h30-10h30).



Registration and Conference Fees

Any interested person is welcome to attend this conference. You do not need to be a member of any of the participating academic societies. Please complete the attached registration form and send it to the conference organisers. You will notice that there is a reduced conference fee for students and for early bird registration. To qualify for early bird registration your registration form and payment of conference fees must be received by 30 April 2009 while late registration will be allowed until 31 May 2009. Day visitors may register on-site (up to 9h30 each day) and will be required to pay a daily registration fee.

Conference fees cover various administrative costs as well as daily refreshments (teas), copies of the conference programme and the book of abstracts, admission to the host's reception and a tote bag. Registered participants will receive details in this regard at registration on the first day of the conference (Session B1 and B2).

Please note that the basic conference fees do not include accommodation, meals, the conference dinner or transport from and to the airport.

- Conference dinners hosted by various participating societies (Thursday evening, 25 June). The various participating societies will each host a conference dinner in the form of a meal at a local restaurant in Stellenbosch at a standard rate. The conference dinner is not included in the conference fees so that participants may register for that separately (see the registration form). Details in this regard will follow after registration.

- Various publishers have been approached to set up exhibitions for book sales during the conference.



Accommodation

Registered participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. However, the planning committee has secured rooms in two of the university residences for the four nights of the conference. If you are interested in making use of such accommodation, please indicate that as such in your registration form.

Costs for this accommodation amount to R220 per night or R880 for the four nights. This includes a room and breakfast. Regrettably, no cancellations can be made after 31 May 2008.

There are numerous additional options for accommodation in the Stellenbosch region. Please consult the following web site for information in this regard: www.tourismstellenbosch.co.za

Please note that the organisers will not be able to provide transport to participants between their accommodation and the conference venue at 171 Dorp Street.



Persons with Specific Disabilities

You are welcome to contact the conference organisers (see the registration form for details) if you need specific assistance with access, accommodation and transport due to some or other disability.

P Parking

Limited parking is available. Options include the banks of the Eersterivier or the parking area just to the east of the faculty premises.



Important Dates

31 March 2009

Submission of information on programme units

30 April 2009

Programme to be available in electronic format

30 April 2009

Early bird registration

31 May 2009

Late registration



Transport from and to Cape Town International Airport

The organisers have secured transport between Cape Town International Airport and the conference venue at a reduced rate from the company CitiHopper, especially for Monday 22 June and Friday 26 June. Please contact them directly at reservations@citihopper.co.za or Tel +27 21 386 0077 / 8. Please use the reference of “Joint Conference 2009” in your correspondence in order to qualify for the reduced rate. You also need to indicate your flight details and your time of arrival so that they could coordinate such transport. The company will provide you with a quotation and details on payment in this regard.



Basic Programme Layout

Time	Monday 22 June	Tuesday 23 June	Wednesday 24 June	Thursday 25 June	Friday 26 June
8h30-9h30		Session A1	Session A6	Session A11	Session A16
9h30-10h30		Session A2	Session A7	Session A12	Session A17
10h45-11h45		Session A3	Session A8	Session A13	Session A18
12h00-13h00		Open Plenary 3	Open Plenary 4	Open Plenary 5	Open Plenary 6
14h30-15h30	Session B1	Session A4	Session A9	Session A14	Session B10
16h00-17h00	Session B2	Session A5	Session A10	Session A15	
17h15-18h15	Open Plenary 1	Session B3	Session B6	Session B9	
18h30-19h30	Open Plenary 2	Session B4	Session B7	Confer- ence din- ners	
19h30-	Host's Reception	Session B5	Session B8	Confer- ence din- ners	

Contact Us: Enquiries: +27 21 808 3255 | Fax: +27 21 808 3251
jointconference@sun.ac.za

Bank details for payments from WITHIN South Africa:

Bank: Absa Bank
 Account name: Dogmatologiese
 Werkgemeenskap Van SA T/A TSSA
 Account nr: 921 471 4876
 Branch Code: 33 44 10
 Reference: Joint Conference

Bank details for payments from OUTSIDE South Africa:

Bank: Absa Bank
 Address: C/o Plein and Van Ryneveld Street,
 Stellenbosch, 7600, South Africa
 Account name: Dogmatologiese
 Werkgemeenskap Van SA T/A TSSA
 Account nr: 921 471 4876
 Branch Code: 33 44 10
 SWIFT Code: ABSAZAJJ
 Reference: Joint Conference