

"Bible, churches and spirituality in a (non?-)secular world"

A research conference by the discipline of Christian Spirituality
University of South Africa

26–27 September 2018

Venue:
Raadsaal
Faculty of Theology
University of Stellenbosch

Programme

26 September:

15h00: Registration table opens. (Indicate participation in non-academic conference events!)

Please note: *conference fees have been reduced to R400 per person.*

(Snacks and lunch will therefore have to be bought privately, at any of the many restaurants just outside the Faculty of Theology.)

The conference fee is payable in cash, for which a receipt will be issued.

(Any surplus will be donated to the University of Stellenbosch's Faculty of Theology student bursary fund.)

16h00: Guided campus tour (departs from conference registration table)

18h00: Day chair: Prof. **Christo Lombaard** (Research Professor: Christian Spirituality, UNISA)

18h05: Words of welcome and thanks

18h15: *Lectio Prima*: "The prayers, tears and joys of Don Cupitt: Non-realist, post-Christian spirituality under scrutiny"

- Dr **David Biernot** (Jewish Studies, Charles University of Prague, Czechia)

19h30: Depart for dinner

(for own account; at various restaurants in town, 2 to 5 minutes' walk)

27 September: Day chair: Rev. **Fundiswa Kobo** (Christian Spirituality, UNISA)

“Considering post-secularism” session:

08h00: “Freedom of conscience in (non?)-secular Latvia”

- Prof. **Laima Geikina** (Faculty of Theology, University of Riga, Latvia)

08h45: Via skype: “‘Life in Christ and in the Spirit’: Theosis and holiness in a postmodern secular context – an Eastern Orthodox spirituality perspective”

- Dr **Nikolaos Asproulis** (Deputy Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece; Lecturer, Hellenic Open University, Greece)

09h45: “The murderous God of Genesis 22 (the *Akedah*) in three recent public discourses: a British popular anti-religious book, a US television series and a South African poem (Or: Criteria for Godhood and faith in secular media)”

- Prof. **Christo Lombaard** (Research Professor: Christian Spirituality, UNISA)

10h30: Brunch break (for own account, at various restaurants in town, 2 to 5 minutes’ walk)

“Spirituality from personal experience and reflection” session

11h45: “From Delphi to Damascus – from *Deus absconditus* to *Deus revelatus*: reflections on the mystery of God as the key to a spirituality of awe and wonder”

- Dr **Hans Combrink** (Vice President, Global Translation: Biblica)

12h30: “Spirituality - the impact of the Kingdom breaking into the world”

- Dr **Kees Thönissen** (Capuchin Franciscan Order; Catholic priest: Parow, Cape Town)

13h15: Quick break

“Spirituality deepening and widening” session

13h30: “Beyond words and vision. Reflections on the role of the Bible in Apophaticism”

- Dr **Lisel Joubert** (Research Associate: Department Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology, University of Stellenbosch)

14h15: “The encounters of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40: a call to embrace spirituality

and intellectualism in African Pentecostal Christianity”

- Dr **Mookgo Solomon Kgatle** (Missiology, UNISA)

15h00: “Transformative joy in Qohelet: A thread that faintly glistens”

- **Annalie Steenkamp-Nel** (PhD candidate: Christian Spirituality, UNISA)

15h45: “A leadership review: spiritual and legacy perspectives explored”

- Prof. **Rigard Steenkamp** (Department of Operations Management, UNISA)

16h30: Quick break

16h45: *Lectio Ultima*: “Growing disciples in local churches: Providing pastors with an instrument for measuring spiritual vitality”

- Dr **Stuart Devenish** (Director of Postgraduate Studies: School of Ministry, Theology & Culture, Tabor College, Adelaide, Australia)

17h45: Conference closing session (discussion chaired by Christo Lombaard)

18h00: End of conference

19h00: Conference closing social event at chosen restaurant (for own account)

28 September: Day trip: Stellenbosch – Gordon's Bay – Hermanus scenic drive, nature views, with a wine tasting stop and a snoek-and-chips (= local fish and chips) and wine evening

Transport will be with a rented 9-person vehicle.

If more colleagues than indicated are interested in joining this day trip, we will rent another vehicle.

The costs associated with the rented vehicle and entrance venues will be equally shared between all participating in this excursion.

Meals etc. are for each person's own account.

Please confirm finally upon registration on Wednesday 26th Sept. in Stellenbosch, between 15h00 and 16h00 at the Registration Table, whether you want to join this excursion.

We will then on the next day rent the vehicle/s required.