

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Catholic Theological Society of Southern Africa

Will hosts a conference on

“Re-formation. Whose history? Voices from the South.

29 September- 1st October 2017

Koinonia,

Johannesburg, South Africa

This year commemorates 500 years since Martin Luther listed 95 theses for academic debate. These humbly presented questions were grounded in Luther’s beliefs in the centrality of the Bible and in human salvation by faith alone. For this, he was subsequently named a heretic and excommunicated. However, Luther was not totally wrong – he was simply raising different opinions to orthodoxy. From this, we learn that descending voices raise critical issues that need critical listening too and engagement. Last October, Pope Francis joined Lutherans in Sweden to mark the beginning of this commemorative year, and hence, critical engagement with issues of reform in the church today.

This moment in history provides us with a new opportunity to ask critically unsettling questions such as: What other voices does the Catholic Church need to hear? What other academic questions need to be raised? What experiences from the struggles of people of the Global South are not being heard and why?

Most significant amongst these struggles is exposing the ongoing intersectional legacy of slavery, colonisation, apartheid, dispossession and neo-colonial oppression. The divided churches supported, legitimated and benefited from these dynamics. Official ecclesial apologies have been made, yet the depth of the complicity has yet to be faced. The pertinent question is: In what way did the Reformation contribute directly or indirectly to these injustices?

So in taking very seriously the continued rawness of divisions, antagonisms and contestations of the past, a new humble listening to voices previously disregarded and suppressed hopefully will provide the basis for a new orthopraxis where difference is valued, respected and positively engaged.

Reform has often been a clarion call. Yet, is reform enough? So much of the Western theological agenda is rooted in European history. While Pope Francis has come with a “Third World” experience of the poor and marginalised voices from the Global South that raise questions about contextualisation, inculturation, liberation, reconciliation, neo-colonial struggle and stewardship, continue to be marginalised. This raises the urgency of a possible re-form around questions that arise from the global South? What questions from Southern Africa, in particular, are key to a new re-forming?

The conference seeks to address the questions that are raised from the South with the hope that we can begin a new re-formation, a new re-forming around what genuinely addresses the imbalances. Possible subthemes on reform are as follows (but is not limited to these):

- A critical analysis of the history of oppression in the Global South
- The need for a decolonial agenda
- Environmental sustainability (eco-justice)
- To create a space for the Africanization of theology and training
- A post-colonial experience of African women
- Through engagement with African Independent Churches
- To overcome inherited ecumenical divisions
- To provide a prophetic voice to the Catholic Church in Southern Africa
- African epistemological starting point to challenge the Western theological and epistemological privilege
- Neo-colonialism and the question of vested interests

We welcome abstracts of 250 words, which must be submitted by 15th May 2017, to Itumeleng Mothoagae: at itumeleng.mothoagae@gmail.com. Please include the title of the paper, the selected sub-theme, 4-6 keywords, the author (s) full name, institutional affiliation and email address. Participants will be informed by 15th June, 2017 if their abstracts have been accepted.

Conference Fees

Full conference Registration: R1300 per delegate

Day Registration: R500 per delegate

Note the above fees cover the cost for accommodation, meals and conference material. Please let us know if you have any dietary needs.

Conference fees must be paid to:

Bank Details for CTSSA:

Account name: Mrs. SM Mackinlay

Savings account number: 1373 722 108

Capitec Bank

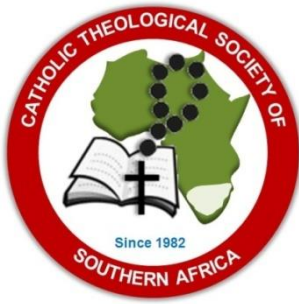
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Please email proof of payment and completed registration form (see end of the document) to: Sue Mackinlay at sue.mackinlay@gmail.com

Selected papers will be published

The papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae Journal*.

For any inquiries on the conference, please contact Fr Anselm Prior OFM and Itumeleng Daniel Mothoagae at prior.laurence@gmail.com and itumeleng.mothoagae@gmail.com.



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REGISTRATION FORM

<p>Full Name</p> <p>Affiliation: Name of Institution</p> <p>Postal Address</p>	
<p>Email Address</p>	
<p>Reference: Your Surname</p> <p>Conference Fees</p> <p>Banking Details</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> R1300 – Full Registration</p> <p>Student Fee, unemployed and pensioners</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> R500 – Day Registration Fee</p> <p>Bank Details for CTSSA: Account name: Mrs. SM Mackinlay Savings account number: 1373 722 108 Capitec Bank Branch number 47-00-10</p> <p>Reference your surname:</p>

Please email completed registration form to itumeleng.mothoagae@gmail.com and proof of payment to Sue Mackinlay at sue.mackinlay@gmail.com