

Division for Social Impact



Initiative by Faculty

Theology

Date: 2 November 2018

Number of Initiatives: 17

Initiative Title	Initiative Description	Initiative Owner
Theology and development	OBJECTIVES are: a) Cultivating new knowledge and developing young scholars knowledgeable on the relationship between theology, development and role of faith communities in development on the continent of Africa. b) Offering young scholars across Africa opportunities to collaborate with established scholars and publishing their research on a variety of themes related to theology and development. c) To collaborate with and strengthen networks with NGO's and FBO's working in developmental projects across Africa. d) Examples of issues are: development and theology/faith communities, development and the ecology,- gender justice, - health challenges, - socio-political challenges, - violence and war, - education and theological training,- curriculum development etc.	Hendriks, HJ, Prof [hjh@sun.ac.za]
Unit for Religion and Development Research	The Unit for Religion and Development Research (URDR) is an interdisciplinary research unit based at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. It empowers communities, organisations and governments for development through evidence-based research, theory building from below and capacity building through education and training. The URDR offers a unique research space, positioned within multiple worlds, with a focus on social transformation and sustainable development. This enables it to sensitively navigate the faith and secular divides still prevalent in development work today; to nurture cooperation between the worlds of theory and practice, academics and faith institutions, and government and civil society; and to offer multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary approaches to the complex issues surrounding key sustainable development goals.	Le Roux, E, Dr <eleroux@sun.ac.za>
Praktiese Teologie en Missiologie 112	Die metodologie van praktiese teologie en missiologie. Studente moet twee kritiese analises in verband met mekaar kan bring: die teorie oor die kerk en die situasie van die gemeente/gemeenskap waar hulle geroep word om te dien en leiding te verskaf.	Nell, IA, Prof <ianell@sun.ac.za>
Ending Child Violence, Nurturing Child-Friendly Churches: A pilot action research collaboration (Between a community organisation, an academic research unit and a local church)	The aim of the project is to investigate how local churches can be better equipped to play a constructive role in ending child violence and nurturing children within its own spaces and programs. It pilots a collaboration between a community project, a local church and an academic researcher to formulate a hybrid model of intervention, reflection and participatory evaluation within one church. Its unique contribution to the topic of ending child violence and nurturing child friendly churches is that it brings together selected local collaborating partners around a child rights legal framework that takes the theological underpinnings of a church setting seriously with tailored engagement within this space that can directly engage with underpinning child theologies in a local church. Objectives: • To develop the role of faith communities in intentionally shaping a safer space for 480 children through a pilot intervention supported	Palm, S, Dr [spalm@sun.ac.za]

	<p>by good practice research at Rondebosch United Church • To offer capacity building and support to 20 church adult and youth leaders working with children in this space for improved accountability and mutual learning that is shaped by global good practice • To explore the role of churches in the formation or disruption of violent patterns against children and to identify what may need to be unlearned and rethought in the light of new legislation/policy • To facilitate church-wide discussion on child friendly churches to understand how congregations can be both roadblocks and resources around ending violence against and the legal rights of children • To draw on the respective strengths of three diverse partners to model joined up thinking on this area in a praxis cycle of action-reflection-action connected to local context and global good practice.</p>	
<p>Protection of stateless persons, prevention of statelessness and the role of Faith Based Organisations in the Southern African Region.</p>	<p>From 29-30 August 2018 we plan a colloquium for about 40 academic theologians and law experts, doctoral students and church and community leaders. The colloquium will be held at the Faculty of Theology. The colloquium would be a collaboration between the Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Law at Stellenbosch University (of the Unit of Law and Religion of the BNS), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR). The theme of the Colloquium is Protection of stateless persons, prevention of statelessness and the role of Faith Based Organisations in the Southern African Region. Today, 10 million people throughout the world are affected by statelessness. Estimates indicate that hundreds of thousands of individuals in the Southern African region are among those that no state "considers as a national under the operation of its law". In many Southern African countries, stateless persons see their human rights denied and suffer exclusion</p>	<p>Plaatjies-Van Huffel, MA, Prof [mapvanhuffel@sun.ac.za]</p>
<p>The MTh Practical Theology (Ministry Practice) 50784:889</p>	<p>The Faculty of Theology offers a two year structured MTh in Practical Theology (Ministry Practice). The programme aims to build missional leadership capacity through reading, vigorous theological dialogue, participation in spiritual disciplines, experimentation with missional leadership challenges and personal reflection (journaling) and direction. The focus and content of the different modules are based on research done in congregations of the Partnership for Missional Churches in Southern Africa (SAPMC). Topics addressed in the MTh Programme: Congregational ministry and spiritual formation; Rethinking our faith: The Gospel, Missio Dei and the Triune God; Pastoral care, spirituality and discipleship; Leading God's people (in partnership with the University of Stellenbosch Business School); Historical and contemporary practices in spiritual direction and community formation; Missiology and missional spirituality for the building of Kingdom communities; Unique Learning Experience. The programme offers students a unique learning experience. It focuses on developing students' skills as missional leaders by reading academic books and articles, reflecting in a learning community, exercising in practice, and articulating and integrating theory through assignments and a research assignment. The point of departure of the learning experience is based on the ecumenical community formed by the students, which is why attendance of modules is compulsory. During the modules missional faith disciplines are practised to establish a culture of faith discernment.</p>	<p>Robertson, DD, Mrs <dr@sun.ac.za></p>
<p>Unit For Moral Leadership: Beacon Of Hope (Homes Of Possibility Through Education)</p>	<p>The vision of the Unit for Moral Leadership is to facilitate moral leadership and human development in communities in South Africa, and also wider, in order to enhance the quality of people's lives. The goals of the Unit include providing well-researched information to positively influence the moral landscape in South Africa within a diversity of religious and secular contexts. It also aims to secure safe spaces and sustainable practices through which central moral values and human/social capital can be developed; where people's character can be built and developed; to strengthen and</p>	<p>Robertson, DD, Mrs <dr@sun.ac.za></p>

	support community leaders and to build a stronger society (through people capital and social cohesion) where everyone can live a good life.	
Winter School	The annual Winter School presented by the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, is a three day conference for pastors and laity on theological, public and congregational issues. In 2017 the conference took place from Tuesday 13 June to Thursday 15 June 2017 and focussed on the theme Reforming the Church, Society and Ourselves. In the light of the 500 -year celebration of the Reformation the Winter School of 2017 engaged with the need for an ongoing reformation of the church, society, and people. The focus was on what we can learn from the Reformation, but also on discussing ways in which we need to go further and seek new modes of being church in a rapidly changing society. The keynote speakers were Dr Ishmael Noko, President of the Inter-faith Action for Peace in Africa, Judge Steven Majiedt, judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal, and Dr Margaret Blackie, lecturer at the Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science, Stellenbosch University. The plenary sessions were supplemented with a wide range of related parallel sessions.	Robertson, DD, Mrs <dr@sun.ac.za>
Theology Faculty: Unit for Innovation and Transformation	It is our intention and desire to contribute to the innovation and transformation of churches and communities through credible research that reconnects them to the Missio Dei. We want to provide well-researched data to identify needs and opportunities in specific contexts, so that churches and communities can be positively affected and strengthen their connection with the Missio Dei. In churches and communities we often make statements, but there is not always careful research to confirm these presuppositions. Therefore the Unit for Innovation and Transformation wants to assist congregations and communities in practice-oriented research. We want to reach our vision and goals through the use of various methodologies to generate the best results for a given context. Individual Research Initiatives for the current year by the Unit include: Project 1: The well-being of ministers of the Cape Synod Region of the United Reformed Church in Southern Africa, and Project 2: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa: Needs and challenges of the Congregation of the Cape Church. Projects completed in 2015 include: Project 3: Theological education poll among former students of the Faculty of Theology: University of Stellenbosch, Project 4: The impact of the religious journey: "Vroue met Vlerke", Project 6: The welfare of ministers of the Western and Southern Cape Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, Project 7: The Wellbeing of South African Synods of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, Project 8: What is happening in congregations of the DRC in the Western and Southern Cape and how can Bible-Media align their products?, Project 9: Missionary congregations, Project 11: How did Clariact EQ Interventions enhance and support flexible methodologies in the IT environment?, Project 12: The development of spirituality in the Synod of the Western and Southern Cape	Robertson, DD, Mrs <dr@sun.ac.za>
Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) South Africa	Word and Worship is an ecumenical resource for worship. Word and Worship is based on the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary. It contains both liturgical and preaching resources. Now in its 7th edition, it has come about due to a collaborative venture between clergy from a number of denominations. It is published annual under the auspices of Ekklesia. There are sermon outlines for each Sunday. A brief hermeneutical exposition is provided with sermon suggestions. These outlines can be adapted to various traditions and contexts. Not every minister may have access to a theological library and these outlines are very user friendly. To accommodate various feast days, allowance have been	Robertson, DD, Mrs <dr@sun.ac.za>

	made for this. The editors of Word and Worship is only too aware of additional feast days, such as Youth Day and Freedom Day amongst others, that are peculiar only to South Africa.	
Together for Justice Conference	Exploring Contemporary Challenges For Churches And Civil Society In The Context Of Post-Colonial Southern African And German Partnerships - Conference was held from 14 to 17 March 2018. This is the third conference in the series and will result in a publication.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]
Teaching Gender and Health in Africa	As part of the Cultivating Change Agents Project, the Gender Unit of the Beyers Naude Centre at the Faculty of Theology hosted a conference in March 2018 in conjunction with the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians that invites participants to consider the challenges and opportunities for teaching Gender and Health in Africa.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]
TEASA Colloquium	A colloquium on the future role of Evangelical Theology in SA held at the Theological Faculty in Stellenbosch on 23-24 January 2018.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]
SKLAS Conferences	The annual conferences of the Synodical Commission for Doctrine and Current Affairs of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (Cape Synod) and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, focus upon the broader theme of Congregations and Public Life. Together we explore the potential of congregational practices for the transformation of all walks of life.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]
Historical trauma	Troubling the Haunting power of the past: Interrupting intergenerational cycles of historical trauma: A joint symposium was hosted on the 16 th and 17 th of May 2017 at STIAS at which various participants representing a variety of scholarly disciplines and contexts presented papers on notions of historical trauma. The BNC was a co-host of this initiative with STIAS and Prof Gobodo Madikizela and Queens University. This is an ongoing collaborative research initiative which is also linked to our Reconciliation Project under the leadership of Prof Christo Thesnaar. It is hoped that this initiative will yield both social and academic fruit as it unfolds.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]
Religious freedom in Africa and Europe	On the 4th-5th of April 2017 a group of international academics from various disciplines gathered at STIAS and the Beyers Naudé Centre to consider notions of religious freedoms in Africa and Europe. Prof Gunner, Prof Gerle and Dr Forster are currently in the process of gathering and editing the chapters for a book on this topic that will be published by Wipf and Stock in 2018.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]
Child killings in the Western Cape	Dr Chris Jones, the Beyers Naude Centre's Moral Leadership project leader, is part of a task team doing research on child killings in the Western Cape. 66 children have been killed since the beginning of 2017 in the Western Cape. The Premier has asked that all existing research first be analysed to determine whether this can in itself provide the necessary answers to why the number of murders continues to increase, and what possible interventions may be able to assist in reversing this trend. Such an analysis should also be able to ascertain whether there are any unanswered questions left by the existing available information that may only be able to be addressed by a commission of enquiry, or through another appropriate process or mechanism.	Snyman, MM, Me [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za]