

SOUTHERN AFRICAN MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (SAMS)



CALL FOR PAPERS

ANNUAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN MISSIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (www.missionalia.co.za)

Venue: North West University, Potchefstroom Campus
Dates: 15 – 17 January 2019
Conference theme: Transformative Theological education in Africa through a missional ecclesiology

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of Southern African Missiological Society (SAMS), we invite you to submit a paper abstract for our annual 2019 Southern African missiological conference. We are grateful to the Faculty of Theology, North West University for the generous invitation to host SAMS in 2019.

Southern African region's history, as is with the rest of the continent, is marred with gross socioeconomic, political and religious injustices / discriminations as part of colonial legacy. Apartheid and different wars of liberation from colonial systems, as well as new democracies saturated with corruption, have left the region with multifaceted challenges, which calls on all sectors of society including the academy and the church to contribute towards transformative and collective wellbeing in Africa. Hence, as initiated at our 2017 Congress in Cape Town, 'africanisation' of missiology has to be embraced as part of our agenda and 'decoloniality' as central to the debate in theological education as well as missiology and mission in the 21st century Africa.

The recent call for the "decolonization of higher education" in South Africa from student movements and academics alike, resonates with broader intellectual discourses. The discourses on "decoloniality" (Grossfoguel 2011) and also the "decolonial turn" (Snyman 2015: 266-291; Maldonado-Torres 2011) challenge the various theological disciplines, or better, afford us (again) an opportunity to continue to think critically about our own heritage and then also, our contribution today and perhaps tomorrow.

Therefore, if we accept that God's mission has a church, we believe that the missional church, has an inescapable responsibility to contribute to transform Theological education by engaging Missiological topical subject matters -such as intercultural communication, mission theology and history, interreligious dynamics, patterns of mission practice, anti-racism and reconciliation, women and youth empowerment, sustainable communities and earth healing, evangelisation in context and trends in world Christianity. By doing this, transformative theological education will be able to contribute to a missional ecclesiology which in turn will contribute to socioeconomic, political and religious transformation in Africa in tangible ways and visa versa.

Theology might be viewed as one discipline which is missional by its very nature, and which epistemological core is a faith-based focus on the triune God. A missional ecclesiology has a correlational-hermeneutical approach to theology, meaning it correlates or compares various perspectives and initiates a dialogue between them. It is our understanding that missional ecclesiology with a focus on congregations as faith-communities and basic building blocks of the church should be instrumental in the development of transformative Theological education.

Coming from a missional ecclesiology transformative Theological education is:

- To know God and to discern his will and guidance for the way we should live and witness in our specific contexts.
- Always contextual. It is about a specific time and place
- About interpretation of history and "glocal" realities, a "from the bottom-up" approach
- About Scripture and tradition
- About discernment
- About the Kingdom of God.

Against the backdrop outlined in foregoing we introduce the theme: **Transformative Theological education in Africa through a missional ecclesiology**. This theme is pertinent and relevant in our context. It affords mission studies an opportunity to wrestle with how we do theological education in a context marred with socioeconomic, political and religious injustices that perpetuate the marginalisation the church. Scholarly Missiological contributions on this theme would thematically add to transformation, Africanisation and decolonilaity agendas in theological education.

We therefore encourage colleagues to engage and reflect broadly, if possible inter and transdisciplinary, on the theme. We invite papers submissions, relating to the conference theme, whilst possible subthemes and questions could include, but are not limited to:

- Church, socioeconomic and political policies and theological education in Southern Africa
- Theological and ecclesiological biases in the Southern Africa society.
- Towards an Africanised /decolonised emancipation of theological education and ecumenical mission in Southern Africa

- Missional ecclesiological case studies and reflections for transformative theological education

How to submit a paper abstract:

Paper abstracts (single papers) should include your name, institutional affiliation and a 500-word max proposal outlining the issue, your argument, and the relevance. Papers should be submitted to Conference organisers: conference chair, Prof Hannes Knoetze at Hannes.Knoetze@nwu.ac.za or conference secretary, Dr. Naas Ferreira at Naas.Ferreira@nwu.ac.za

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 November 2018

Feedback to authors: 30 November 2018

Deadline for paper submission: 06 January 2019

The conference fee is R800, excluding your Missionalia (journal) subscription. The program will also include our biennial David Bosch Memorial Lecture, annual business meeting and a conference dinner Wednesday evening, hosted by the Faculty of Theology NWU. On the Thursday morning, we will have a joint session with the Society of Practical Theology in South Africa (SPTSA). Please contact the conference chair, Prof Hannes Knoetze at Hannes.Knoetze@nwu.ac.za or conference secretary, Dr. Naas Ferreira at Naas.Ferreira@nwu.ac.za for further information or clarity on any of the logistical arrangements.

You are requested to pay your conference fee of R800 into the SAMS bank account and send the proof of payment to **barone@unisa.ac.za** for attention Rev. Eugene Baron. The bank details are:

BANK: ABSA

ACCOUNT NO: 10229405

BRANCH: 632005

BENEFICIARY: MISSIONALIA

ACCOUNT TYPE: CHEQUE

SWIFT ADDRESS: ABSAZAJJCT

REFERENCE: SURNAME/SAMSCONF2019

We are looking forward to your attendance and hopefully your presentation at the next annual conference of SAMS.

Greetings

Hannes Knoetze

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