



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Programme

**9-12 APRIL 2024**

**Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality**

**Wellington, Western Cape, South Africa**

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**Violent Texts**  
**Violent Interpretations**  
**Violent Contexts**

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**Hosted by**  
**The Gender and Sexuality Subgroup**  
and in collaboration with



**huguenote kollege**



## Main Speaker | Prof David Tombs

In January 2015, David Tombs assumed the position of Director at the Centre and the Howard Paterson Chair of Theology and Public Issues. An Anglican lay theologian, Tombs is recognized for his scholarly contributions to contextual and liberation theologies, theologies of reconciliation, and the examination of crucifixion. Additionally, he addresses the imperative for churches to enhance their responses to instances of spiritual and sexual abuse. Tombs' research has been instrumental in establishing crucifixion as not only a form of torture but also as an instrument of state terror and an avenue for sexual harm. His noteworthy publications encompass "Latin American Liberation Theology" (Brill 2002), "Explorations in Reconciliation" (co-edited with Joseph Liechty, Routledge 2006), "When Did We See You Naked?: Jesus as a Victim of Sexual Abuse" (co-edited with Jayme Reaves and Rocío Figueroa, SCM 2021), and "The Crucifixion of Jesus: Torture, Sexual Abuse, and the Scandal of the Cross" (Routledge, 2023).

## Plenary Speakers



### Prof Miranda Pillay

Miranda Pillay is Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape, affiliated with the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice. Her work focuses, amongst others, on revealing the dynamics between gender power relations in ancient biblical texts and their relevance in contemporary contexts. Through research, publications, teaching, and community engagements, she re-examines biblical texts, including those used to justify male privilege, to address issues like gender-based violence prevalent in families, faith communities, and society at large.



### Prof Jeremy Punt

Jeremy Punt is Professor of New Testament at Stellenbosch University after having taught at the University of Fort Hare since 1991. His work focuses on biblical hermeneutics, past and present, including critical theory in interpretation, the intersection of biblical and cultural studies, and on the significance of contextual configurations of power and gender, and social systems and identifications for biblical interpretation. In 2015 he published Postcolonial biblical interpretation. Reframing Paul (Brill) and regularly contributes to academic journals and book publications.

## Tuesday, 9 April

Meeting		
11:00-13:00	NTSSA Executive Meeting and lunch	Clairvaux Boardroom

### 13:00-18:00 – Meetings

Meetings (Jubilee Hall)		
13:00-16:00	NTSSA Executive Meeting	Clairvaux Boardroom
16:00-18:00	<i>Neotestamentica</i> Editorial Board Meeting	Registration

### 18:00-20:30 – Welcoming and Plenary Address

Joint Programme (Jubilee Hall)	
18:00-18:30	Welcoming
18:30-19:30	<b>Plenary Address:</b> Prof David Tombs (University of Otago) - The Stripping of Dignity in the Strippings of Jesus: Text and Context
19:30-20:30	Light refreshments

## Wednesday, 10 April

07:30	Devotionals	Chapel
08:00	Breakfast	Dining room

### 9:00-12:00 – Parallel Papers

*All parallel papers: 30-minute presentation + 15-minute discussion*  
Subgroup abbreviations (in alphabetical order)

EC = Early Christian Studies

GS = Gender and Human Sexuality

JG = Jesus and the Gospels

PS = Pauline Studies

	Parallel Papers: Clairvaux Seminar Room 1	Parallel Papers: Clairvaux Seminar Room 2	Parallel Papers: Jubilee Hall	Parallel Papers: Clairvaux Boardroom
9:00-9:45	Biblical texts with respect to the role of women (relative to men) – have they been misinterpreted to push women down, or how does ‘self-love’ (Mat 22:39) speak to “deny yourself” (Mat 16:24)? <i>June Dickie</i> University of KwaZulu Natal (JG)	“Women ‘Unveiled’: Common Practice and Persuasion in 1 Cor 11:5-9, 13”  <i>Cilliers Breytenbach</i> Humboldt University & Stellenbosch University (PS)	The politics of male gaze and female shame in Susanna and the Elders.  <i>Ninnaku Oberholzer</i> University of Pretoria and King’s College London (GS)	Jesus’ antithetical argument in the Sermon on the Mount to protect women against abusive divorce practices.  <i>Francois P Viljoen</i> North-West University (JG)

9:45-9:55	<b>Comfort break</b>			
9:55-10:40	Any empathy for a character of prime evil? Judas Iscariot and a hermeneutic of vulnerability.  <u>Gerrie Snyman</u> University of South Africa (EC)	Naming and shaming. Exploring space(s) between women in Philipians 4:2-3.  <u>Janke du Plessis</u> <u>Annette Potgieter</u> University of Pretoria (PS)	The flip side of violence: Concepts of purity in Pauline letters.  <u>Gertrud Tonsing</u> University of South Africa (GS)	A critical analysis of John 4:37-38 in the face of power and ethnical dynamics in the Fourth Gospel with implications for the Seventh-day Adventist church in Zimbabwe.  <u>Tendai Takawira</u> University of Pretoria (JG)
10:40-11:15	<b>Refreshments (Dining room)</b>			
11:15-12:00	Portraits of Wifely Submission: Plutarch's Portia, the Septuagintal Sarah, and the Historic Queens of Asia Minor.  <u>Joel Brown</u> Stellenbosch University (EC)	Exploring depictions of Eve in Paul: a violent portrayal?  <u>Annette Potgieter</u> University of Pretoria (PS)	The parable of two mothers: An alternative reading scenario within the parable of the prodigal son.  <u>Charel du Toit</u> University of Pretoria (GS)	The liberating effect of anti-imperial reading with Luke 4:16-32 as case-study: A South African Perspective.  <u>Kenosi Patson Motuku</u> University of Pretoria (JG)
12:00-12:10	<b>Comfort break</b>			
12:10-12:55	Beyond Mortality: Diverse Views on Death in the Second Century.  <u>Mphumezi Hombana</u> University of Pretoria (EC)	Power Dynamics: Love and Liberation in Ephesians 5:22-24 for Inclusive Relationships in Zulu Culture.  <u>Agreeneth Macu:</u> University of Pretoria (PS)	A bird's eye view of the Acts of the Apostles: Birthing the early church in violence? <u>Nina Müller van Velden</u> UFS (GS)	The Violence of Q 10:3.  <u>Llewellyn Howes</u> University of Johannesburg (JG)

**13:00-14:00– Lunch (Dining room)**

Joint Programme (Jubilee Hall)	
14:00-15:15	<b>Business Meeting 1 (Jubilee Hall)</b>
15:15-15:30	<b>Refreshments (Dining room)</b>

Joint Programme (Jubilee Hall)	
15:30-16:30	<b>Keynote Address:</b> <i>Miranda Pillay</i> (University of the Western Cape) – A Wor(l)d Without Violence Against Women? Toward Reckoning with the Historic Patriarchy of ‘our’ faith in John 8:1-11. (GS)

Joint Programme (Jubilee Hall)	
16:30-17:30	<b>Keynote Address (Honorary President):</b> Prof HJB Combrink - Lighting the Lamp on the Pathway of Life

Joint Programme (Jubilee Hall)	
17:30-18:00	<b>Remembrance:</b> Pieterella (Petra) Dijkhuizen

**18:00 - Supper (Dining room)**

Joint Programme (Jubilee Hall)	
19:00-20:00	<b>Keynote Address:</b> Jeremy Punt (Stellenbosch University) – “Slaves of Christ”: Rape culture in the New Testament (GS).

**Thursday, 11 April**

07:30	Devotionals	Chapel
08:00	Breakfast	Dining room

**9:00-12:30 – Parallel Papers**

*All parallel papers: 30-minute presentation + 15-minute discussion*

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9:00-9:45	The “Formation” of Jesus in the Long Second Century.  <u><i>Gerhard van den Heever</i></u>  University of South Africa (EC)	Pauline texts turned into terror weapons and tools for excluding women in church leadership: A case for Ugandan churches.  <u><i>Edison Muhindo Kalengyo</i></u>	The “massacre of the innocents” in Matthew 2:16-18: Tragedy or inevitable?  <u><i>Whitney Muller</i></u> Stellenbosch University (GS)	Matthew’s use of the ethics of Q.  <u><i>Marius J. Nel</i></u> Stellenbosch University (JG)

		Uganda Christian University (PS)		
9:45-9:55	<b>Comfort break</b>			
9:55-10:40	Christianizing Susanna: Revisiting the Reception and Transformation of the Narrative of Susanna (Dan. 13 LXX) in Early Christian Discourse.  <u>Chris de Wet</u> University of South Africa (EC)	Paul and authority in Galatians 4.  <u>John-Paul Harper</u> Stellenbosch University (PS)	Abraham as a Social Identity Marker in Luke 16:19–31.  <u>David van Groenigen</u> Stellenbosch University (JG)	Connection of Illness to Worldview: Comparing Mark’s diagnosis of illness to that of the Tswana culture from medical anthropology.  <u>Lethabo Molopyane</u> University of Johannesburg (JG)
10:40-11:00	<b>Refreshments (Dining room)</b>			
11:00-11:45	Origen’s Philosophical Rhetoric: from φιλοσοφία to παιδεία.  <u>Paul Decock</u> University of Kwazulu-Natal (EC)	Paul and the Parousia: Does the slaughter of others bring about the imminent return of Christ?  <u>Vuyani Sindo (PS)</u> <u>George Witfield</u> <u>College</u>	1 Timothy 2:11-15 as violent text against women leadership and teaching in the Angolan context: A social-rhetorical analysis.  <u>Teresa Chateia Davids</u> Stellenbosch University (GS)	Violent Interpretation of the inclusion of the Four Women in Matthew 1:3-6.  <u>Motuma Amante</u> University of Stellenbosch (JG)
11:45-11:55	<b>Comfort break</b>			
11:55-13:00	<b>Interview:</b> Prof David Tombs			

**13:00-14:00 – Lunch (Dining room)**

## 14:00-16:15 – Parallel Papers

*All parallel papers: 30-minute presentation + 15-minute discussion*

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14:00-14:45	Is the Barnabas document a proponent of a trinitarian or hierarchical divine concept?  <u>Peter Nagel</u> Stellenbosch University (EC)	Banquets of Grace: The Meaning and Significance of Jesus' Table Fellowship with Sinners in Matthew.  <u>Bekele D. Anshiso</u> The Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST) and Stellenbosch University (JG)	Unveiling patriarchal veils: Women's perceptions of the Anglican Church's role in addressing sexual health challenges in Cape Town.  <u>Thokozile Mbaya</u> VID Specialized University (GS)	Violence and Apocalyptic Notions in Mark 13.  <u>Mphumezi Hombana</u> University of Pretoria (JG)
14:45-14:55	<b>Comfort break</b>			
14:55-15:40	Surprising Literary Tastes: Social Identity Complexity in the Bodmer Manuscripts.  <u>Nicholas Oliveira</u> University of Pretoria (EC)	Violence and vilification in Paul – A close-reading of 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16.  <u>H.J. Prinsloo</u> UFS (PS)	The relation between justification and identity in the Pauline corpus.  <u>Philip La G. Du Toit</u> (PS)	Jesus and the Publican: A Dialogic Reading of Luke 19:2-29.  <u>Jurqoi Saleh Jnr</u> University of Pretoria & ECWA Theological Seminary (JG)
15:40-15:50	<b>Comfort break</b>			
15:50-16:35	Papias of Hierapolis and Christian origins.  <u>Pieter Botha</u> University of South Africa (EC)	Spiritually gifted and divided?: A text-centred interpretation of 1 Corinthians 12:1–31a.  <u>Tsholofelo Jeffrey Kukuni</u> North-West University (PS)	The role of faith in developing resilience in cancer patients: Reading the Corinthian letters.  <u>Elma Cornelius</u> North-West University (PS)	Violent text, violent context, and the Lukan Jesus in Luke 9:51-56.  <u>Godwin A. Etukumana</u> University of Stellenbosch (JG)
16:35-17:00	<b>Refreshments (Dining room)</b>			

### 17:00-18:00 – Subgroup Meetings

17:00-18:00	Early Christian Studies: Clairvaux Seminar Room 1 Gender and Human Sexuality: Jubilee Hall Jesus and the Gospels: Clairvaux Boardroom Pauline Studies: Clairvaux Seminar Room 2
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### 18:00-22:00 – Conference Dinner

18:00-19:00	<b>Travel to Conference Dinner (own transport)</b>
19:00-22:00	Conference Dinner - <i>The Stone Kitchen</i> . Dunstone Estate, Bovlei RD, Wellington

## Friday, 12 April

07:30	Devotionals	Chapel
08:00	Breakfast	Dining room

### 9:00-13:00 – Parallel Papers and Business Meeting

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	<b>Parallel Papers:</b> Clairvaux Seminar Room 1	<b>Parallel Papers:</b> Jubilee Hall	<b>Parallel Papers:</b> Clairvaux Boardroom	<b>Parallel Papers:</b> Clairvaux Seminar Room 2
9:00-9:45	Fate or Faith: Virgin Sacrifice in Greek Tragedies and in the New Testament.  <u>Nanine Potgieter</u> Stellenbosch University (EC)	The cascading effects of gender-based violence: Towards the eradication of GBV through the household conduct of Ephesians 5:22-6:4.  <u>Tsholofelo Kukuni</u> North-West University (GS)	'Strive for peace with (almost) everyone': The use and meaning of 'a root of bitterness' in Hebrews 12:15.  <u>Albert Coetsee</u> North-West University (PS)	The Bar Kokhba revolt: A re-emergence in West Africa the battle of slave masters and the enslaved.  <u>Roger Tem</u> University of Pretoria (JG)
9:45-9:55	<b>Comfort break</b>			
9:55-10:40	When the core of unity shifts: considering the changed perspective as exemplified in two letters to the Ephesians.  <u>Annelie van der Bank</u> Stellenbosch University (EC)	A socio-scientific reading of 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and the place of women in Evangelical Church Winning All.  <u>Moses Iliya Oqidis</u> CWA Theological Seminary, Karu Abuja (PS)		
10:40-11:00	<b>Refreshments (Dining room)</b>			
11:00-13:00	<b>Business Meeting 2 (Jubilee Hall)</b>			

### 13:00-14:00 – Lunch (Dining room)

*End of Programme*