



**6TH AASR
CONFERENCE
IN AFRICA
(African
Association for the
Study of
Religions)**

**Religion, Ecology, and the Environment
in Africa and the African Diaspora**

University of Cape Town, South Africa

Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Lodge, Portsworld Road,
Waterfront

July 30-August 3, 2014

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[The African Association for the Study of Religions](#) (AASR) invites proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtable, and poster presentations for its biannual conference to be held at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, from July 30 to August 3, 2014. This Conference is co-sponsored by the [International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture](#). it is also supported by the [International Association for the History of Religions](#).

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
RELIGION, NATURE, AND CULTURE**



The AASR returns to the theme *Religion, Ecology, and the Environment in Africa and the African Diaspora* to underscore its commitment to the growing environmental crisis and the impact it has on all areas of life and society in Africa and the African Diaspora. As scholars of religion, we have an important responsibility, in collaboration with other scholars in other disciplines to study religion, ecology, and the environment. This conference offers participants to present research, engage in dialogue, develop relevant educational curricula and inform public policy on this vital and critical issue.

Religion and the study of religions, ecology, and the environment in Africa are a major concern for reasons that include radical climate change; the disappearance of vegetation and wetlands; extensive exploitation of natural resources; frequent and severe draughts; the impact of climate changes on population density in major cities; water and food crises. The academic study of religions as a field provides an opportunity to examine these issues on different levels: theoretical, methodological, experiential, pedagogical, and the pragmatic.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bron Taylor is Professor of Religion and Environmental Ethics at the University of Florida, and a Fellow of the [Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society](#), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany. His research focuses on the connections between what people construe as 'nature' and 'religion,' and especially, on the emotional and spiritual dimensions of environmental movements. He edited the award-winning *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* and has produced five other books, including *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future*; *Avatar and Nature Spirituality*; and *Ecological Resistance Movements: the Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism*.

Taylor has led a variety of scholarly initiatives, including the development of the Environmental Studies program at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the graduate program in Religion and Nature at the University of Florida. He is also the founder of

the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, and its affiliated *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, which he edits. He has given invited and keynote presentations in over a dozen countries.

Taylor earned a Ph.D. in Social Ethics from the University of Southern California. For more information see www.brontaylor.com.



PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

Professor Victor Molobi

Tracing the Myths behind Trees and Shrubs in the Bushveld Area of South Africa: The Intersection of Religion and Environmental care

Professor Molobi is the Associate Professor of Missiology attached to the Research Institute for Theology and Religion at the University of South Africa (UNISA).. He was involved in the Faith and Earthkeeping Project between 1996 and 2000. Prof. Molobi, Ds Olivier and Professor Daneel, jointly worked on ecology from the perspectives of African Independent Churches both in South Africa and Zimbabwe. His interest on the environment and ecology is further revealed from his research on the history of the myths behind trees in the Bushveld of South Africa. His chapter titled, "Seeking Eco justice in a South African context" appeared in *Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and Churches' Response*, edited by D. Hessel and L. Rasmussen. He has published widely in the area of the African Independent Churches in South Africa. Some of his published works include:



- The historical voices of the African Independent Churches: Towards a new development. *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae*, August. Vol. XXXIX, Supplementary, pp 155-167, 2013
- The past and future of the prophetic vision of African theology. *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae*, xxxiv supplement (35-48, 2010).
- Ancestral veneration at the core of African Independent Churches, *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae*, xxxi.1 (111-126), 2005.

Professor Molobi a member of several academic societies and a committee member of the Organization of the African Initiated Churches' (OAIC) Theological Resource Team in Nairobi, Kenya. He is an ordained minister in the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa (AFMSA).

Prof. Ernst Conradie**Penultimate reflections on the root causes of environmental destruction in Africa**

Prof. Conradie is Senior Professor in the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape where he teaches systematic theology and ethics. His recent publications in Christian ecotheology include "Saving the Earth? The legacy of reformed views on re-creation" (LIT Verlag, 2013) and the co-edited volume "Christian Faith and the Earth: Current Paths and Emerging Horizons in Ecotheology" (Bloomsbury, 2014).

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS

There has been an overwhelming response to our call. We have now selected papers and panels for the meetings, and all have responded to all submissions. If you have submitted a proposal, and have not heard from us, please write to one of the organizers at the foot of this document.

ACCOMMODATION

The Conference will be held in Cape Town at the Conference Facilities of the [Breakwater Lodge](#). We have organized special rates at the hotel.

	Per person per night	Sharing Rates
Standard Double Rooms	R1,450.00	R1,710.00 for 2
Standard Twins	R1,450.00	R1,710.00 for 2
Deluxe (king size bed)	R1,625.00	R1,886.00 for 2

Business Suites Double (includes lounge area)	R1,695.00	R1,940.00 for 2
Twin Business Suites (includes lounge area)	R1,695.00	R1,940.00 for 2
Double Family Units	R1,938.00	R2,083.00 for 2
Triple Family Units	R1,938.00	Add R145 for additional persons for breakfast
Quad Family Units	R1,938.00	Add R145 for additional persons for breakfast

The above rate includes breakfast daily.

All rates include 14% VAT, but excludes a 1% Tourism Levy.

All rates are nett and non-commissionable.

Please make sharing arrangements on your own.

A number of rooms (**150**) have been set aside for the Conference at this hotel at these preferential rates for 4 nights.. Use this [Booking Form](#), and make a reservation directly with the hotel. Send your booking form to [Greg Brookstein](#) to confirm your booking. In order to get the best rate, please use **1763701** or **African Association for the Study of Religions** as your reference when making your booking. **The closing date for booking is 30 May 2014, after which a room cannot be guaranteed at this rate (if at all).**

Follow this link for:

[Directions to the Protea Hotel, Breakwater Lodge & Conference Venue:](#)

The following hotels nearby have also offered special rates for participants.

[The Commodore Hotel:](#)

Call (+27 21) 415 1106 or Email: compw4@legacyhotels.co.za

Standard Single Rooms @ R1,430 per night (accommodation only)

R1,680 per night (including breakfast)

[Protea Hotel Victoria Junction:](#)

Call (+27 21) 418 1234 or Email: groups@victoriajunction.com

Standard Single Rooms @ R1,266.00 per night (including breakfast)

There are also several options for alternative accommodation within the vicinity of the conference venue. However, these venues **have not offered special rates for conference participants:**

[Coast To Coast Backpackers:](#)

(+27 21) 783 4003 or email: travel@coasttocoast.co.za

This site is a search engine which provides information on dorm-style or shared room lodging options. Accommodation ranges from R150 for dorm-style rooms, to upwards of R580 for single and en-suite options.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

Airport transfers should be arranged by the participants. The Breakwater Water Lodge offers transport from the Airport to the Hotel. But we have also arranged for special rates with the following transport companies. Call them or book your ride:

[Sport Taxis](#)

Call (+27 21) 447 4444 or Email: bookings@sporttaxies.co.za

[Rikki's Taxis](#)

Call (+27 21) 447 3559 or (+27 21) 086 174 5547 or Email: bookings@rikkis.co.za

[Excite Taxis](#)

Call (+27 21) 448 4444 or Email: excitetaxis@telkomsa.net

Internet

Free internet access will be available at the conference venue. A high speed internet connection may be purchased at the conference venue at R1 per minute or R500 (approximately \$50) for a 24hr period.

REGISTRATION

Type of Registration	Cost
Normal Registration by 30 May 2014	\$200.00 (R2000.00) participants who are not based in SA should pay \$200.00 to cover bank charges.
Late Registration by 31 May 2014	\$220.00 (R2200.00)
Day Rates - register by 30 June 2014	\$40.00 (R400.00)
Student Registration by 31 May 2014	\$150.00 (R1500.00)
Student Late Registration by 30 June	\$170.00 (R1700.00)
Student Day Rate	\$30.00 (R300.00)

Please fill this [on-line registration form](#). We will then send you a payment form which you will have to send back to us via email or fax.

Payment Methods.

UCT System (EFT or Credit Card)	A form will sent to you once you have completed the online registration
AASR Paypal System	
Direct Deposit in the AASR Account	African Association for the Study of Religions Bank of Scotland Branch Code: 80-20-00 Account No. 00208442

	<p>BIC:BOFSGB21168 IBAN: GB05 BOFS 8020 0000 2084 42 Name of Beneficiary Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland Physical Address of Bank: Edinburgh Royal Mile (bos), 300 Lawnmarket, EH1 2PH Country where bank is located: United Kingdom Name of Beneficiary: African Association for the Study of Religion Address of Beneficiary: CSWC New College, Mound Place, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH1 2LX, United Kingdom</p>
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As soon as you register online, you will receive further instructions on how to proceed with payment.

We look forward to you joining [the African Association for the Study of Religions](#) - and help to build a platform to share your work on the study of religion.

We look forward to your participation in Cape Town. Please write to us if you have any questions.

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