Wednesday 30 July

14h00 – 18h00 Registration
Business School Foyer (opposite Breakwater Lodge Reception)

18h00 – 21h00 Opening / Welcoming Dinner
Beijing Orchid Restaurant, Shop 216, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town. 021 421 8702
Master of Ceremonies: Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele)
Prof. Sakhela Buhlungu, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town.
Councillor Matthew Kempthorne, the Chair of the Portfolio Committee on Energy and Climate Change, City of Cape Town

Thursday 31 July

Parallel sessions: 8h30 – 10h30

Parallel Session TM1
Religious rituals and the environment
Chair: Pratap Kumar
Venue: Exhibition Hall
Kirimaara and Nyambene: the ‘speckled’ and the ‘masculine’ mountains of God among the Ameru of Kenya (Anne Kubai, Uppsala University)
Ritual and Ecology: Examining Irreecha Ritual in relation to ecology among the Oromo of Ethiopia (Serawit Bekele Debele, Bayreuth University)
Indigenous Sacred Days in Zimbabwe and Cameroon as Conservation Strategy (Elias

Parallel Session TM2
Religious texts and emerging eco-theologies
Chair: Auvais Rafudeen
Venue: Faculty Hall
From Genesis to Jonah: biblical resources for environmental justice (Gerald West, University of KwaZulu-Natal)
Taught by an Ant? A Holistic African-South African Reading of Proverbs 6:1-11 (Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), University of South Africa)

Parallel Session TM3
Philosophical & psychological perspectives on religion & the environment
Chair: Johan Strijdom
Venue: Executive Hall
What does religion have to say about ecology? A new appraisal of Naturalism (Jaco Beyers, University of Pretoria)
Rain makers, environmental change and contestation of the Gods amongst the Biali of North West Benin (West Africa) (Papa Sow, University of Bonn)
Dis-possession: Islam, the Spiritscape, and a Changing Ecological Ethos (Adelin Masquelier, Tulane University)
Bongmba, Rice University and Collis Machoko, University of Sandbury

Affinity between natural milieu and Yoruba religious conviction (Olatomide Babalola, College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, Nigeria)

10h30 - 11h00 Tea

Plenary Session Exhibition Hall: 11h00 – 12h30

Keynote Address: Prof Bron Taylor (Professor of Religion and Environmental Ethics at the University of Florida, and Fellow of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany.)

Religion, Nature and Environmental Action from Africa to Avatar and Back

Chair: Elias Bongmba

Lunch: 12h30 - 14h00

Parallel Session: 14h00 - 16h00

Parallel Session TA1 Religious Ritual and Social Capital Formation in South Africa
Convenor: Cas Wepener
Venue: Exhibition Hall
Orientation to the Research Project (Cas Wepener, University of Pretoria)
Eating and Drinking in an AIC: Measurements and Recipes for Social Capital (Cas Wepener, University of Pretoria)
Friendship and Fellowships: Ritual as Life Forming Source (Henry Mbaya, University of Stellenbosch)
Isitisha (Henry Mbaya, University of Stellenbosch)

Parallel Session TA2 Ecological readings of the Old Testament in African contexts
Convenor: Willie van Heerden
Venue: Faculty Hall
The landscape of ecological biblical hermeneutics: An overview and an exploration of some of the issues (Willie van Heerden, University of South Africa)
A cosmological interpretation of the Old Testament: ecological implications (Peet van Dyk (University of South Africa)
An eco-theological interpretation of Proverbs 5:15-20 in the light of water crises experienced in present-day Africa (Jonathan Kavusa)

Convenors: Elaine Nogueira-Godsey/Nina Hoël
Venue: Executive Hall
Presentations by UCT undergraduate students:
Kalopsia or Kindness? Why you’ll never find a Shaman who supports Fracking (Jamie Ashton, Yazmine Horowitz and Gilad Levanon, University of Cape Town)
The Impact of Apartheid on Environmentalism and (Eco)Feminism (Tammy Wilks, University of Cape Town)

Ritual, Religion and Development
(Gerrie ter Haar, International Institute of Social Studies)
Ritual Beyond the Worship-Setting: Pentecostalism and Social Capital

Religion and Natural Environment Perception (Gabrielle Cappai, Bayreuth University)
Generation in South Africa and Ghana (Abamfo Ofori Atiemo, University of Ghana) 
Deuteronomy 22:6-7 and the development of a new paradigm for Christianity (Izak Spangenberg, University of South Africa)

16h00 - 16h30 Tea

Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 16h30 - 17h30
Stories of Eco-Justice Praxis from Southern Africa, South African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute (SAFCEI)
Kate Davies, Geoff Davies, Juanita Greyvenstein

Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 18h00 – 19h00
Prof Victor Molobi (University of South Africa):
Tracing the Myths behind Trees and Shrubs in the Bushveld Area of South Africa: The Intersection of Religion and Environmental Care
Chair: Abel Ugba
Respondent: Esther Acolatse (Duke University)

Friday 1 August

Parallel Sessions: 8h30 - 10h30

Parallel Session FM1
Religious Institutions, development and management of the environment
Chair: Michel Clasquin
Venue: Exhibition Hall


Traditional spiritual practices: untapped potential in conservation planning (Diana Quiroz and Tinde van Andel, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden)

Assessing the contribution, impact and potential of youth-led faith based organizations towards environmental action in Africa (Allen Ottaro, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya)

Protecting, Healing and Sustaining the Ukambani Environment: Individual and Community Rituals in Kenya, 2008-2012 (Mickie Mwanzia Koster, University of Texas)

Parallel Session FM2
“If all the trees on earth were pens…” (Qur. 31: 27):
Intersections between Botanic Knowledge and Writing Practices in West African Islam
Convenor: Andrea Brigaglia
Venue: Faculty Hall

Faith and conservation in the sokoto caliphate: plants in the medicinal literature of Northern Nigeria (Mukhtar Bunza)

The use of plants in the material culture of writing in northern Nigeria (Michaelle Biddle, Wesleyan University)

Reflections on the transformation of the practice of ‘Islamic’ medicine in southern Katsina (Nigeria) (Murray Last, University College London)

Manuscrits de L’institut Ahmed Baba Et La Pharmacopee (Abdoulkadri Idrissa Maiga, Institute des Hautes Etudes et des Recherches Islamiques Ahmed Baba.)

10h30 - 11h00 Tea

Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 11h00 – 12h30

Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 16h30 - 17h30
Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 18h00 – 19h00
Panel: Research Methodology for the Study of Religion

Convenor: Afe Adogame (The University of Edinburgh)
Rosalind Hackett (University of Tennessee)
Gabrielle Cappai (University of Bayreuth)

Lunch: 12h30 – 14h00

Parallel sessions: 14h00 – 16h00

Parallel Session FA1
Wilderness in / as Sacred Space
Venue: Faculty Hall
Convenor: Franz Kogelmann / Magnus Echtler
Venue: Exhibition Hall

Between the Holy Mountain and the New Jerusalem. Wilderness and the Sacred in the Nazareth Baptist Church, South Africa (Magnus Echtler, University of Bayreuth)

Terrific Goddesses in the city. Amman worship among Hindus in Durban, South Africa (Ziva Kopecka)

Contiguous Modes of Sacredness in the Matobo Hills of Zimbabwe (Kupakwashe Mtata)

Do Collective Memories Match Individual Experiences in National Parks? A consistency check for models of nature (Michael Hauhs, University of Bayreuth)

Africa's Future Environment: Concepts of Appropriation and Conservation of "Nature" (Georg Klute)

Parallel Session FA1
Chair: Elias Bongmba
Venue: Faculty Hall

Harvesting in Nature's Dispensary: Traditional Healers, the muthi trade and the intractable relationship with witchcraft in South Africa today (Dale Wallace, UKZN)

Soothing “God’s Fight”: Ritual Action during the 1968-1974 Sahelian Famine in Mali, West Africa (Dianna Bell, Vanderbilt University)

Displacement and Search for a Green Africa (Isabel Mukonyora, Western Kentucky University, USA)

The cross-cultural and cross-religious resilience of rain prayers in southern African history (Retief Muller, University of Stellenbosch)

16h00 - 16h30 Tea

Business Meeting: 16h30 – 18h30
### Saturday 2 August

**Parallel sessions: 8h30 – 10h30**

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<td><strong>Politics, education and religion in Africa</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Garth Mason</td>
<td>Chair: Jan Platvoet</td>
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- Prophetic Critiques of Agricultural Development Schemes: The Case of Alinesitoue Diatta in French Senegal (Robert Baum, Dartmouth College, Hanover)
- A Ghanaian Reflection on Pentecostal Ethics and Genetically Modified Foods (Dela Quampah, Pentecost University College, Ghana)
- Changing face of Christianity, change face of Zambian politics? (Marja Hinfelaar, SAIPAR, Lusaka)
- "The God factor in the Construction of Leadership in Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo’s Political Rhetoric" (Ngozi-Ugo Emeka-Nwobia, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria)
- 'Environmental education (EE) in Nigeria: Content analysis of secondary schools’ Christian religious studies textbooks' (Omoyele Francis Falako, University of Lagos, Nigeria)

**10h30 - 11h00 Tea**

**Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 11h00 – 12h00**

Prof Ernst Conradie (The University of the Western Cape)

Penultimate reflections on the root causes of environmental destruction in Africa

Chair: Johan Strijdom
Respondent: Nina Hoël

**Plenary Session (Exhibition Hall): 12h00 – 13h30**

Publish or Perish? The Politics of Academic/Scholarly Publishing, Grant Writing and Job Market Realities

Convenor: Afe Adogame (The University of Edinburgh)
Robert Baum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA
Gerrie Ter Haar (Institute of Social Studies, Den Haag, The Netherlands)
Oyeronke Olademo (University of Ilorin, Nigeria)

Lunch 13h30 -14h30
Parallel Sessions: 14h30 - 16h30

Parallel Session SA1
Women religious scholars and activists in dialogue on Southern African women's ecological wisdom
Convenor: Annalet van Schalkwyk (UNISA)
Venue: Exhibition Hall

The work of the Circle of Concerned African Woman Theologians on gender, ecology and religion: Taking stock and exploring the way forward (Annalet van Schalkwyk (UNISA))

Sustaining the Wild Coast: the relationship between the ecology and the people (Nobuntu Mazeka, Sustainable Pondoland Forum Eastern Cape)

Navigating Indigenous Resources that can be Utilized in Constructing a Karanga Eco-Feminist Theology: A Case study of Karanga women within the ZIRRCON ecological project in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. (Sophie Chirongoma, Midlands State University)

Unearthing the essence of nature and the perception of the natural landscape among the amaXhosa in the Eastern Cape: An exploratory study (Lydia Mogano, Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute)

Siwila Lilian Cheelo (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal)

Parallel Session SA2
Public Religion and Issues of Homosexuality in Contemporary Africa
Convenors: Adriaan van Klinken (University of Leeds, UK) & Ezra Chitando (University of Zimbabwe)
Venue: Faculty Hall

"I Was On Fire": The Challenge of Counter-intimacies Within Zimbabwean Christianity (Nathanael Homewood, Rice University)

Chanting Down Same-Sex Relations: Reflections on Rastafari Communities in Postcolonial Zimbabwe (Sibanda Fortune, Great Zimbabwe University)

Homosexual debate in Nigeria: A critique of responses of public religions (Danoye Oguntola-Laguda, Lagos State University)

Parallel Session SA3
God, gods, ancestors and the environment
Chair: Collis Machoko
Venue: Executive Hall

Gods in Nature, Gods at Home: Domesticating the Divine in Akan Religion (Gold Coast/Ghana) in Late Pre-Colonial Time (Jan Platvoet, Leiden University)

The Ancestors and the Groves in Iuleha: Interrogating the Role of the Ancestors in Preserving Contemporary Environment (Benson Ohiihon Igboin, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria)

Of God, environmental disasters and punishments – A critical analysis of selected media discourses (Abel Ugba, University of East London, United Kingdom)

The Dead in the Practice of Environmental Ethics: A Comparative Study of the Care and Maintenance of Religious and Public Cemeteries in a Nigerian City of Ile-Ife (David Olugbenga Ogungbile, Obafeimi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)

16h30 - 17h00 Tea

17h00 – 18h00 Concluding Plenary Reflections
Panelists: Bron Taylor, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Elias Bongmba
Religion, Ecology, and the Environment in Africa and the African Diaspora