

International Bonhoeffer 2020 Congress

Plenary Speakers



Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is Professor and Research Chair in Historical Trauma and Transformation at Stellenbosch University. Her interests focus mainly on two strands of research. The first is exploring ways in which the impact of the dehumanising experiences of oppression and violent abuse continues to play out in the next generation in the aftermath of historical trauma. For her second research area, she expands her earlier work on remorse and forgiveness and probes the role of empathy more deeply by engaging a perspective that makes transparent the interconnected relationship among empathy, *Ubuntu* and the embodied African phenomenon of *inimba*—a Xhosa word that loosely translated means “umbilical cord”—and integrating these with the relational and psychoanalytic concept of intersubjectivity. Her critically acclaimed book, *A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness* won the Christopher Award in the United States in 2003, and the Alan Paton Award in South Africa in 2004. Her other books include *Narrating our Healing: Perspectives on Healing Trauma*, as co-author, *Memory, Narrative and Forgiveness: Perspectives on the Unfinished Journeys of the Past*, as co-editor, *Breaking Intergenerational Cycles of Repetition: A Global Dialogue on Historical Trauma and Memory*, as editor. She was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, from Holy Cross College in Massachusetts (2002), and the honorary Doctor of Theology from the Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Germany (2017).



Wolfgang Huber served as research assistant and as deputy director of the Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Heidelberg (1968-1980), as professor of Social Ethics in Marburg (1980-84) and then professor of Systematic Theology (Ethics) in Heidelberg (1984-1994). In 1989 he was visiting professor at Emory University in Atlanta/Georgia. He is an Extraordinary Professor in Heidelberg, Berlin and Stellenbosch. He received several honorary doctorates and other awards. He was Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg (1994-2009) and Chairperson of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (2003-2009). He is the author of both popular and scholarly works, mostly in the field of theological ethics, and plays an active role in the church, in ecumenical affairs and in many spheres of public and political life. He is married to Kara Huber; they have three adult children and six grand-children.



Terence Lovat is Professor Emeritus at the University of Newcastle, Australia, Visiting Professor at the University of Glasgow, UK, and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, UK. He was formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean at the University of Newcastle. His research interests span theology and education, with special attention to Islam, moral education and the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer; he is currently Editor-in Chief of *The Bonhoeffer Legacy*, the only journal in the world dedicated solely to Bonhoeffer's theology, and convenor of the annual Australian Bonhoeffer Conference. Terence's work on Islam has been far-reaching in terms of publications and accessing Muslim

communities. He has been a guest of universities in several Islamic countries, including Turkey, Tunisia, Indonesia and Iran. In recent times, he has been pondering on the intersection between his twin interests in Islam and the theology of Bonhoeffer, employing the latter to try to establish a more productive analysis and understanding of Islam in all its manifestations, including that of the troublesome radical Jihadism, than is common in Western assumptions, perceptions and biases.



Thabo Makgoba is the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town. Born in Makgoba's Kloof in Limpopo, he grew up in Alexandra in Johannesburg until his family was forcibly removed to Soweto. He earned degrees in science, applied psychology and educational psychology at Wits University, and studied for the ministry in Makhanda in the Eastern Cape. He served as a priest in Johannesburg and as a bishop in Komani and Makhanda before being elected, at the age of 47, as Archbishop of Cape Town. He has a PhD from the University of Cape Town for a thesis based on his ministry to miners suffering crushed spinal cords and is the recipient of a number of honorary degrees.



Nadia Marais teaches Systematic Theology at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She completed her PhD in Systematic Theology in 2015, with the title "Imagining Human Flourishing? A Systematic Theological Exploration of Contemporary Soteriological Discourses". Her research interests include theological anthropology, ecological theology, and soteriology. She is an ordained minister of the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa and a Mandela Rhodes Scholar.



Teddy Chalwe Sakupapa teaches ecumenical studies and social ethics at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). He holds a PhD in Ecumenical Studies from UWC and a master's degree in Dogmatics from the Protestant Theological University, Netherlands. His research interests include discourse on God in African theology, decoloniality, ecumenical ecclesiology and the history of Christianity in Africa. He is currently working on a project on the "Doctrine of the Trinity in African Theology" in conversation with discourse on decoloniality.



Reggie Williams received his PhD in Christian ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2011. He earned a Master's degree in Theology from Fuller in 2006 and a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from Westmont College in 1995. He is a member of the board of directors for the Society for Christian Ethics, as well as the International Dietrich Bonhoeffer Society. He is also a member of the American Academy of Religion and Society for the Study of Black Religion. Williams' book, *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance* (Baylor University Press, 2014) was selected as a Choice Outstanding Title in 2015 in the field of religion. The book is an analysis of exposure to Harlem Renaissance intellectuals, and worship at Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist on the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, during his year of post-doctoral study at Union Seminary in New York, 1930-1931. Williams' research interests include Christological ethics, theological anthropology, Christian social ethics, the Harlem Renaissance, race, politics and black church life. His current book project includes a religious critique of whiteness in the Harlem Renaissance. In addition, he is working on a book analysing the reception of Bonhoeffer by liberation activists in apartheid South Africa.
