

Faculty of Theology
Stellenbosch University
South Africa

26 March 2020

Dear Colleague

**CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
'BETWEEN TRUST AND JUSTICE: SEEKING FOR HOPE', 25-28 MAY 2021,
STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA**

The planning committee of the conference invites you to submit proposals for papers for the following conference:

'Between trust and justice: Seeking for Hope'

Within the context of South Africa reconciliation is a process of endurance and building trust. Truth and justice are fundamental concepts for meaningful and responsible dialogue within the current context and for the future. We cannot foresee the future, but we can attempt to anticipate the questions future generations could ask to the current and preceding generations. The fundamental question is therefore: Within this complex scenario, how do we seek sources of hope?

The conference is organised by the sub-discipline of pastoral care and counselling within the Department of Practical Theology and Missiology, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University. The MTh program in Dialogical Intergenerational Pastoral Process (DIPP) has been a central focus of the department since 2017. This master programme focuses specifically on Contextual Pastoral Care and Counselling, in the track of Dr Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy (1920-2007), main founder of Contextual Therapy.

The keynote speakers at the conference are:

Catherine Ducommun-Nagy (President, Institute for Contextual growth Inc, Pennsylvania), Jenő Kiss (Professor, Practical Theology at the Protestant Theological Institute of Cluj-Napoca), Henry Mbaya (Associate Professor, Missiology in the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University) and Tamlyn Roberths (PhD student in Practical Theology, Pastoral Care and Counselling specified in Dialogical Intergenerational Pastoral Process at Stellenbosch University).

saam vorentoe · masiye pbambili · forward together

The contextual pastoral care approach was developed since the 1980's in the Netherlands, as an alternative approach to the already existing (family) pastoral care approaches. Philosophical scholars such as Martin Buber (studied by Boszormenyi-Nagy) and Emmanuel Levinas inspired the contextual pastoral care approach. Concepts such as loyalty, destructive entitlement, multidirected partiality, parentification and exoneration are central to Contextual Therapy. Contextual pastoral care (as part of theology) inspires us to (re)consider these concepts in dialogue with Bible narratives. Currently there are also exciting initiatives, studies and research done in contextual pastoral care outside Western Europe (e.g. Hungary, Transylvania/ Romania and South Africa). These regions all have their own histories influencing family and individual history (tradition, culture, religion, traumas). The Masters program at Stellenbosch University has, from the beginning, actively sought to Africanise the premises of Contextual Therapy and Contextual Pastoral care and counselling. In 2020 we have our first intake of PHD students focusing on research within this approach.

We strongly hope that participants of several different backgrounds will give special contributions. In the first place, theologians and theological students, but also social workers, therapists and other professionals are warmly invited to participate. Let us try to enrich our meetings with experiences, practical and/ or theoretical knowledge. This conference reaches out to all professionals and students (religion, social sciences) who are seeking for responsible wisdom for their work and life in a changing world. We think here is a challenge and an opportunity for international intercultural networking. We would value your efforts greatly. Therefore, we encourage submissions from practitioners, scholars, doctoral candidates and students for research, case studies, panel discussions, or complete sessions devoted to an issue related to hope-seeking in society.

Please send an abstract of around 400 words plus a title to Prof Christo Thesnaar at cht@sun.ac.za by 1 November 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Christo Thesnaar
Faculty of Theology
Stellenbosch University