



International Lecture Series 2024 (ILS 2024)

**Religion and Global Exclusions:
Political and Public Theologies of Otherness**

**Organizing
Institution**

Postgraduate Program in
Religious Studies

PUC Campinas - Brazil

Partners

**PUCPR – Brazil
Stellenbosch University – South Africa
VU Amesterdan – Netherlands
Lund University – Sweden
University of Edinburgh – Scotland
Universität Tübingen – Germany
Ateneo de Manila – Philippines**

International Lecture Series 2024 (ILS 2024)

Religion and Global Exclusions: Political and Public Theologies of Otherness

Religion operates as an ambiguous player in human rights issues, working both in the support of transforming and inclusion policies, while also is present in the critical tension against such changes. Central here is the place given to otherness in public and political theologies. Religious based exclusions take place all over the world. They may be direct implications of religious beliefs such as the Dalits in India, considered by Hinduism as a lower caste. In other situations, the exclusion of the other serves as a legitimating discourse that provides internal force to bias and prejudice, such as in white supremacists Christians. Within a friend-enemy dialectics, as in Fundamentalism, the stranger may never be welcomed unless he/she is converted into sameness. Religions that support the neoliberal political-economic status quo, also provide a key to excluding and/or eliminating the other, since there is place only for those who are able to fit in. To revisit otherness is the challenge we face in the current edition of our International Lecture Series. Our task is to identify and describe ongoing exclusions around the globe and the roles religions play in them. The religious other, may, sometimes, be part of the same confessional home, since not few religions feel divisions inside themselves. This is remarkably observable within Christianity. Here we are not addressing the obvious confessional plurality Christian faith bears, but to the internal divisions that trespass confessional borders and end up, in some cases, representing the legitimization of Christian right-wing nationalism with its undermining of otherness and the struggle Christians dive in in order to resist it.

Organizing Committee

Prof. Ana Cloclet (ana.silva@puc-campinas.edu.br)

Prof. Douglas Barros (dfbarros@puc-campinas.edu.br)

Prof. Glauco Barsalini (glaucob@puc-campinas.edu.br)

Prof. Jefferson Zeferino (jefferson.zeferino@puc-campinas.edu.br)

Coordination

Ateneo de Manila University: Dept. of Theology: Prof. R. Mendoza

PUC Campinas: Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies: Prof. G. Barsalini, Prof. D. Barros

PUCPR at Curitiba: Postgraduate Program in Theology: Prof. R. v. Sinner

Stellenbosch University: BNC/Faculty of Theology: Prof. Siphon Mahokoto

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: Prof. Dion Forster

University of Graz: Prof. Martina Bär

University of Lund: Prof. U. Schmiedel

University of Tübingen: Faculty of Catholic Theology: Dr. S. Pittl

Time

06:00 (CST) | 07:00 (CDT) | 09:00 (BRT) | 12:00 (WET) | 13:00 (WEST) | 13:00 (CET) | 14:00 (CEST) | 14:00 (SAST) | 20:00 (PHST)

From February to June (Always on Mondays)



PROGRAMME

February 26th

‘Antinomian as the Historical Revolutionary Impulse of Christianity’ (Opening Lecture)
Colby Dickinson (Loyola University, USA)

Moderation: Douglas Ferreira Barros (PUC-Campinas, Brazil)

March 04th

Round of Conversations with Students – Sharing Research Interests

Moderation: Jefferson Zeferino (PUC-Campinas, Brazil)

March 11th

‘Peace between our souls and the soil? Exploring the tension between political populism and ecological justice in Southern African Methodism’

Dion Forster (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Moderation: Ulrich Schmiedel (Lund University, Sweden)

March 18th

‘The Heterotopic Public Theology of Santo Daime’

Amanda Vicentini (PUCPR, Brazil) and Rudolf von Sinner (PUCPR, Brazil)

Moderation: Martina Bär (University of Graz, Austria)

March 25th

‘Ways of Excluding the Other: Contemporary Eschatology in Three Traditions’

Jakob Wirén (Lund University, Sweden)

‘An African Philosophy of Religion or a Philosophy of African Religion? The Precarious Nature of Religion in Philosophical Discourses’

Justin Sands (St. Augustine College, South Africa)

Moderation: Sipho Mahokoto (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)



April 8th

‘Secularisms in tension in Latin America: encounters and disputes between religions, civil society and human rights agenda’

Nicolas Panotto (Universidad Arturo Pratt, Chile)

‘Revisiting Romano Guardini's critique of technocracy's power mechanisms’

Felipe Koller (PUC-Campinas, Brazil)

Moderation: David Xolile Simon (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

April 15th

‘#Ele Não, #EleSim: Musical Expressions of Otherization across Brazil’s Current Political/Religious Divide’

Marcell Silva Steuernagel (Southern Methodist University, USA)

‘Can Christianity be queer? A Reflection on the Horizon of Possibility’

Ashwin Thyssen (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

Moderation: Dion Forster (VU Amesterdan, Netherlands)

April 29th (10AM BRT)

‘The Other Other: Between Inter-Faith and Intra-Faith Dialogue in Islam’

Shadaab Rahemtulla (University of Edinburgh, Scotland)

‘Christofascism: Concept and Critique’

Ulrich Schmiedel (Lund University, Sweden)

Moderation: Sebastian Pittl (University of Tübingen, Germany)

May 06th

‘Confronting White Saviourism in Global Christian Development and Diaconia Praxis’

Nadine Bowers du Toit (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

‘Remembering Marielle Franco as a martyr?’

Katharina Merian (Universität Basel, Switzerland)

Moderation: Rudolf von Sinner (PUCPR, Brazil)



May 13th

‘The Politics of Exclusion’

Douglas F. Barros (PUC-Campinas, Brazil) and Glauco Barsalini (PUC-Campinas, Brazil)

Moderation: Alex Villas Boas (CITER – Catholic University of Portugal)

May 20th

‘The Dutch Reformed Family of Churches and Exclusions? A Black South African experience of otherness’

Sipho Mahokoto (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

‘Beyond Identity and Difference: Similarity as New Paradigm of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue’

Sebastian Pittl (Universität Tübingen, Germany)

Moderation: Jakob Wirén (Lund University)

May 27th

‘Scriptural Exclusions and the Sacred Secular: Islam as the Other in Europe’

Hannah Strommen (Lund University, Sweden)

‘Paul’s otherness: perspectives on the reception of Paul’

Annette Potgieter (Pretoria University, South Africa)

Moderation: Paulo Augusto de Souza Nogueira (PUC-Campinas)

June 3rd

‘Christianism and exclusion: an approach to Catholic and Evangelical discourses in the Brazilian context’

Ana Rosa Cloquet da Silva (PUC-Campinas, Brazil) and Jefferson Zeferino (PUC-Campinas, Brazil)

Moderation: to be confirmed

June 10th

Closing Session



NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Alex Villas Boas is Coordinator and Principal Investigator at the Research Centre for Theology and Religious Studies (CITER), Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP). Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, PUCPR, Brazil).

Amanda Vicentini is PhD candidate at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná – Brazil, with a period of studies and research at the Katholische Privat-Universität Linz-Austria. Her topics of interest are: Ecotheology, Feminist Theology, Indigenous Spirituality, and, in particular, the Healing and Spiritual Power of Plants.

Ana Rosa Clochet da Silva is Professor at the Faculty of History and at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). Her projects are integrated to the Research Line: “Religion: institutions and discourses”, where she serves as the leader of the research group ‘History of Religions and Religiosities’. She holds a PhD in History from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp, Brazil) and a Post-Doctorate in the same area from Universidade de São Paulo (USP, Brazil). Her research experience concentrates on Brazilian History (19th century), History of Religions, and History of Concepts, focusing on the relationship between religion and politics in Brazil. She is a member of the ‘Iberoamerican Conceptual History Project’ – Red Iberconceptos. Currently, she has been developing research partnership with researchers from the Red de Estudios de Historia de la Laicidad y la Secularización, (REDHISEL-Conicet/Argentina); from Université Laval (Québec, Canada); from Loyola University (Chicago-USA); from the Institut d’Étude du Christianisme (Strasbourg, France), and from the Global Network of Public Theology (GNPT).

Annette Potgieter is a Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Related Literature at the University of Pretoria. She is the author of ‘Contested Body: Metaphors of Dominion in Romans 5-8’ (2020) and the editor of ‘Resilience in a VUCA World: Reflections on Teaching, Learning and Health in Turbulent Times’ (2022). She completed her Dr theol at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (2019).

Colby Dickinson is Professor of Theology at Loyola University, Chicago. He is the author of ‘Giorgio Agamben’s Homo Sacer Series: A Critical Introduction and Guide’, ‘Theological Poverty in Continental Philosophy: After Christian Theology’, ‘The Fetish of Theology: The Challenge of the Fetish-Object to Modernity’, ‘Words Fail: Theology, Poetry, and the Challenge of Representation and Theology’ and ‘Contemporary Continental Philosophy: The Centrality of a Negative Dialectics’. He is also co-editor of ‘Agamben and the Existentialists’, with Marcos Norris, and the forthcoming book ‘Haunted Words, Haunted Selves: Listening to the Otherness within Western Thought’. His research focuses on the intersections between contemporary continental philosophy and theology, exploring modern varieties of political theology and the philosophy of religion alike.

David Xolile Simon is Professor of Missiology in the Department of Practical Theology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

Dion Forster is a Professor of Public Theology in the Faculty of Religion and Theology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He also serves as a Research Fellow in the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University and at Wesley House, Cambridge University. Dion's research focusses on the intersections of faith and public life from the perspective of a Southern African Methodist. He holds two PhD's, one in Systematic Theology (2006) and another in New Testament Studies (2017). Among his recent books are 'African Public Theology' (Langham, 2020), also published in Portuguese, 'Teologia Pública Africana' (2023) and French, 'Théologie Publique Africaine', (2022).

Douglas Ferreira Barros is Professor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). His research focuses on Political Theology, and on the intersections between Religion and Politics in Brazil.

Felipe Koller is Post-Doctoral fellow at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). He holds a PhD in Theology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR, Brazil).

Glauco Barsalini is Professor at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). PhD in Philosophy from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP, Brazil), he completed a Post-Doctorate in the Department of Theology at Loyola University Chicago.

Hannah M. Strømmen is a biblical scholar specializing in biblical reception. She has published and presented widely on the impact of the Bible in literature, philosophy, and politics in the twentieth and the twenty-first century. Currently she is a Wallenberg Academy Fellow at Lund University in Sweden, where she is running the Scripture and Secularism Project. Before that she was Reader in Biblical Studies at the University of Chichester, UK. Her latest book is 'The Claim to Christianity: Responding to the Far Right', co-written with Ulrich Schmiedel, and her monograph, 'The Bibles of the Far Right' is due to be published later this year.

Jakob Wirén is Associate Professor in systematic theology and adjunct as professor of Theology of religions at Lund university. He also serves as the theological advisor to the Church of Sweden archbishop. Wirén is a member of the World Council of Churches committee for interfaith dialogue and of the editorial committee of Dialog: A Journal of Theology. His research interests include interfaith relations and comparative theology and among his recent books are 'Hope and Otherness: Christian Eschatology and Interreligious Hospitality' (Brill 2018) and 'Att ge plats för den andre?' ['Giving Space to the Other?'] (Verbum 2021).

Jefferson Zeferino is Associate Professor in Public Theology and History of Protestantism in Brazil at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). He works as Executive Editor in Teoliterária – Journal of Theologies and Literatures (PUCSP), as Assistant Editor in Reflexão, a Journal of Religious Studies (PUC-Campinas), and as Assistant Editor in the International Journal of Public Theology (Brill). Currently he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Network for Public Theology as Representative for Latin America.

Justin Sands is a Research Fellow at the University of the Free State, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of Department of Theology at St. Augustine College. His research focuses on the relationship between theory and praxis. After receiving his PhD in Theology from KU Leuven, Belgium, in 2015, he then moved to South Africa where he has continued exploring various theological issues through hermeneutic phenomenology. Eventually, he began working on a second PhD in philosophy from the University of Fort Hare, South Africa, which engages potential decolonial and African philosophical contributions to reconceptualizing the hermeneutic phenomenological method. He has published two books, edited various special issues, and has recently co-edited the anthology, *Phenomenology in an African Context* (SUNY Press), which brings pioneers within African philosophy together to discuss phenomenology's role within African discourses. Since it is the first comprehensive collection of its kind, this was the culmination of a four year project on decolonization, African philosophy, and their use of various phenomenological methods. Dr. Sands expects to submit a manuscript on African philosophy and hermeneutic phenomenology within the year, and is contracted to submit a monograph on John D. Caputo's radical theology in 2025.

Katharina Merian is a senior research associate at the Institute for Hermeneutics and Philosophy of Religion, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Marcell Silva Steuernagel is Assistant Professor of Church Music and Director of the Master of Sacred Music and Doctor of Pastoral Music Programs at Southern Methodist University. He holds a Ph.D. in Church Music from Baylor University, an M.A. in Music Composition from Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), Brazil, and a B.A. in Conducting and Composition from the School of Music and Fine Arts of Paraná (EMBAP/PR), Brazil. Marcell has a long-standing career as a music scholar and practitioner. He is an internationally active composer and performer in both popular and concert environments in Brazil, North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He has released pop-rock albums, premiered choral and orchestral compositions in churches and universities, and edited hymnals. Marcell writes at the intersection of church music, theology, musicology, and performance theory, both in Portuguese and English. His most recent monograph is 'Church Music Through the Lens of Performance', published on Routledge's Congregational Music Studies series (2021).

Martina Bär has been a University Professor for Fundamental Theology at the Institute for Systematic Theology and Liturgical Studies at the University of Graz since April 2022. She heads the fundamental theology department. She served as Visiting Professor at the Free University of Berlin (2018-2022). She is co-editor of the international yearbook of the European Society of Women in Theologic

Nadine Bowers Du Toit is Professor in 'Theology and Development' (Dept. Practical Theology & Missiology) at the Faculty of Theology, University of Stellenbosch. Her research over the past 20 years has largely focused on the role of faith communities in addressing the intersecting issues of poverty, inequality, race and gender. Her most recent projects, which investigated the role of faith identity of Faith Based Organisations (FBO) and the issue of young adults, race, faith and inequality have been funded by grants from the National Research Foundation and the Nagel Centre for World Christianity respectively. Prof Bowers Du Toit has published over 45 articles and book chapters and has more recently edited a book volume entitled 'Faith, race and inequality among young adults in South Africa: Contested and contesting discourses for a better future' (SUN media, 2022). Besides lecturing, publishing and supervising post graduate students, she is often invited to address congregations, church leaders and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) on topics pertaining to community development and social justice. She sees herself as an activist academic always seeking to push for space for more voices to be heard and is the director of the Unit for Religion and Development and serves on the boards of several faith based Non-Profit Organisations. She previously served as the chairperson of the Society of Practical Theology South Africa and is the current president of the International Academy of Practical Theology.al Research.

Nicolás Panotto is a Theologian and PhD in Social Sciences. He serves as Postdoctoral Researcher at Arturo Prat University (Chile) and as the director of Otros Cruces.

Paulo Augusto de Souza Nogueira holds a PhD in Theology from the University of Heidelberg (Ruprecht-Karls) in Germany, and performed postdoctoral studies in History at Unicamp, Brazil. He is a Professor at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). His research focuses on the forms of textual articulation and imagery of religion, in dialogue with the semiotics of culture, literary theory and discursive studies. He also studies the narrative genres of early Christianity and the imagery structures of apocalyptic texts in the past and in the history of reception.

Rudolf von Sinner, Dr. theol. habil., is professor of Systematic Theology and Head of Graduate Programme in Theology at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil, where he also teaches in the Graduate Programme in Human Rights and Public Policies. He has been an Extra-Ordinary Professor at the Faculty of Theology of Stellenbosch University, South Africa since 2013 and was moderator of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation from 2014 to 2022. He chaired the Global Network of Public Theology from 2020-23 and is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Public Theology. Among his numerous publications is 'Public Theology in the Secular State: a Perspective from the Global South' (Zurich: LIT, 2021).

Sebastian Pittl (PhD, University of Vienna, Austria, 2016) is head of the Department of Dogmatics at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Tübingen, Germany. His research focuses on liberation theologies, postcolonial theologies, political theologies, identity, difference and similarity and the relationship of theology and university. Major publications include 'Geschichtliche Realität und Kreuz. Der fundamentale Ort der Theologie bei Ignacio Ellacuría' (Pustet: Regensburg 2018). He is editor or co-editor of several multi-authored volumes and special issues in the field of liberation theology, intercultural theology and postcolonial theology.

Shadaab Rahemtulla is Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. Shadaab's primary research interests lie in the relationship between religion, power, and resistance, exploring how religious texts can be (re)interpreted to challenge systems of social domination, including poverty, patriarchy, racism, and empire. He is the author of 'Qur'an of the Oppressed: Liberation Theology and Gender Justice in Islam' (2018) and the editor of 'The Future of Islamic Liberation Theology' (2023). Shadaab received his PhD in contemporary Islamic thought from the University of Oxford. Before joining the University of Edinburgh in 2019, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Jordan in Amman, where he taught for six years.

Sipho Mahokoto is a Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology Department, teaching Ethics and Public Theology, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University. He also serves as a part-time Minister of the Word in the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA), Kayamandi, Stellenbosch. He is the Director of the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology at Stellenbosch University. He serves as steering committee member of the South African Day of Courageous Conversation (DOCC) led by Archbishop Dr. Thabo Makgoba focusing on the role of Faith Leaders in the Mining Industry. He is the co-editor of the book with (Robert Vosloo, Sipho Mahokoto, and Marthinus J. Havenga, editors) Broken Bodies and Redemptive Tables: The Lord's Supper and its Theological, Historical, and Socio-Political Dimensions, Bible Media, Biblecor, Wellington, South Africa.

Ulrich Schmiedel is Professor of Global Christianities at Lund University in Sweden. Specializing in public and political theology, he is interested in the role of religions in the public square, both their problems and their potentials for the challenges that confront contemporary societies. He is the author of 'Elasticized Ecclesiology: The Concept of Community after Ernst Troeltsch' (2017) and 'Terror and Theologie: Der religionstheoretische Diskurs der 9/11-Dekade' (2021) as well as the co-author of 'The Claim to Christianity: Responding to the Far Right' (2020).

HOST INSTITUTION

PONTIFÍCIA UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA DE CAMPINAS (PUC-Campinas)

The *Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas*, created in 2014, offers qualified research training for their students who might pursue the Master's Degree in Religious Studies (Mestrado em Ciências da Religião), and the PhD in Religious Studies (Doutorado em Ciências da Religião).

Focusing on a common object, 'Religion', the Program develops varied studies that seek to approach religion through the critical dialogue between sociological, historical, phenomenological, hermeneutical, theological, and philosophical approaches.

The Program is structured in a Concentration Area named 'Religion: Social Relations and Generation of Meaning', which is composed by two research lines:

The Research Line 'Religion: Institutions and Discourses' gathers two research groups: 'Religion, Ethics, and Politics', ran by Prof. Douglas Ferreira Barros, and by Prof. Glauco Barsalini; and 'History of Religions and Religiosities', with Prof. Ana Rosa Clochet, and Prof. Jefferson Zeferino.

The Research Line 'Religion: Hermeneutics and Epistemology', is also formed by two research groups: 'Religion, Language, and Culture' with Prof. Breno Martins Campos, Prof. Ceci Maria Costa Baptista Mariani, and Prof. Paulo Augusto de Souza Nogueira; and 'Religion: Epistemology and Phenomenology', composed by Prof. Paulo Sergio Lopes Gonçalves, Prof. Renato Kirchner, and Prof. Marcio Cappelli Aló Lopes.

(Website)

<https://www.puc-campinas.edu.br/programa-de-pos-graduacao-em-ciencias-da-religiao-mestrado/>



REGISTRATION

For registration send us an e-mail to *ingrid.cser1@puccampinas.edu.br*

- In the e-mail
 - o Name the subject line – ‘Registration ILS 2024’
 - o And inform the following:
 - Name
 - Academic title (or level of academic training you are now)
 - Your Institution
 - Research interests (we will use this info to try to connect students and scholars from different universities)

After registration you will receive the links for the Lectures and any further info and materials regarding our Programme.

