

Department of Religion and Theology

Research Report for 2016 and Plans for 2017

1. Institutional Framework

a) Changes in the staff establishment

In 2015 and 2016 four new members of staff have been appointed in the Department, namely Prof Sarojini Nadar (in the Desmond Tutu Chair of Ecumenical Theology and Social Transformation in Africa, Prof Ignatius Swart, Rev Teddy Sakupapa and Mr Demaine Solomons. During the course of 2017 two further appointments are envisaged in the fields of Old Testament Studies and New Testament studies, in order to replace Dr Miranda Pillay who retired in 2016 and Prof Douglas Lawrie who will retire during 2017.

In addition to these new staff members and the two remaining staff members in Prof Ernst Conradie and Dr John Klaasen, a number of extra-ordinary staff and emeritus professors are related to the Department and continue to contribute to its ongoing research. These include Prof Daan Cloete (emeritus professor), Prof Hans Engdahl (whose contract as emeritus professor expired in 2016), Prof Christo Lombard (whose appointment as emeritus professor is in process), Dr Yaw Adu-Gyamfi (research fellow) and Dr Robert Agyarko (research fellow). The Department will recommend the appointment of Dr Pillay as research fellow and Prof Lawrie as extraordinary professor.

b) Collaborative research frameworks

The Department of Religion and Theology registered the following three collaborative research frameworks in 2006:

- Moral education and formation towards a human rights culture
- Ecumenical theology and social transformation
- Christian ecological theology

The department also has a long-standing research interest in the following field:

- Biblical, theological and contextual hermeneutics and rhetorical theory

Given the changes in the staff and their expertise the ways in which these research frameworks were conceptualised had to be revisited. This was done through planning processes that also involve the relationship between the Department of Religion and Theology, the Desmond Tutu Chair, the Desmond Tutu Centre of Spirituality and Society (see below) and other research centres in the Faculty of Arts.

The document below reflects the ways in which the research focus areas in the Department of Religion and Theology have been reconceptualised, namely in terms of the following six research frameworks to some extent overlapping with each other, each with a number of core rubrics:

- Religion, Ethics and Social Transformation
- Religion and Gender
- Religion and Development
- Ecumenical Theology and Spirituality in Africa
- Christian Ecotheology
- Biblical Hermeneutics and Rhetoric (to be developed in 2018)

c) Desmond Tutu Chair of Ecumenical Theology and Social Transformation in Africa

The vision for the establishment of an endowed Desmond Tutu Chair to support this project on "Ecumenical Studies and Social Ethics" was articulated when the original three projects were registered in May 2006. Given the availability of sufficient funds but an inability to make an appointment against this position since November 2009, the post was restructured as a

rotating chair as an interim measure from 1 October 2012 to 30 November 2013. Christo Lombard occupied the chair in October and November 2012 and Charles Amjad-Ali in July and August 2013 in this capacity.

Christo Lombard was subsequently appointed in the chair for an initial period of 12 months as from 1 July 2013 until 30 June 2014 and again from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, further extended to 31 December 2015.

Following fundraising efforts by Christo Lombard and Hans Engdahl, a visit by the full board of the Lund Mission Society (chaired by Prof Samuel Rubenson) was hosted in February 2015, together with a small delegation of EMW (headed by Dr Michael Biehl). Following this visit LMS indicated that they were willing to make a substantial amount available towards the chair. Only the interests of this investment may be used. After the necessary financial arrangements were made, the funds were eventually transferred in July 2015. On this basis the Chair was advertised in September 2015 as a renewable contract post for a period of five years at the level of Professor / Associate Professor. The process towards making an appointment in this Chair is still underway.

After interviews in November 2015 and January 2016, Prof Sarojini Nadar was appointed in the Chair as from 1 August 2016. She gave an inaugural lecture entitled “...” On ?? August 2016.

d) The Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society

The Department of Religion and Theology has for some time envisaged a Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society to provide an institutional context to implement the projects associated with the Desmond Tutu Chair. The establishment of the Centre was approved by Senate and Council in June 2014 and was formally launched on 2 December 2014. In 2015 and 2016 a constitution for the Centre was drafted and approved, a Board for the Centre was established, together with a smaller Board of Trustees that has to attend to the finances of the Centre and also the Desmond Tutu Chair.

In summary, as argued in the submissions that led to the establishment of the Desmond Tutu Centre, the interaction with the variety of civil society actors that will be the focus of the Centre involves two-way communication and invites theoretical reflection on such interaction. It is in this way that the Centre will help to clarify what an engaged university entails. Such a forum provides the space for inter-disciplinary dialogue on social transformation, intellectual inquiry in this regard, for attracting and hosting visitors, involving post-doctoral students, for receiving international postgraduate students and visitors for shorter periods of time.

Prof Christo Lombard as the incumbent in the Desmond Tutu Chair was asked by the steering committee to act as interim Director of the Centre until the formal structures are in place.

The Centre reports to the Faculty of Arts so that its activities are not reflected in this report. However, there is a need to clarify the relationship between the research frameworks indicated above and the more specific projects initiated by members of the Department of Religion and Theology on the one hand and the activities of the Desmond Tutu Centre on the other – as there is some obvious overlapping in this regard. This was discussed at a planning meeting on Friday 3 February 2017. Although this will be in constant need of clarification the following was agreed upon:

Individual members of the Department, including the Desmond Tutu Chair (who remains a member of the Department), will continue to register specific research projects and engage in ongoing research. They will see to publish such research and seek accreditation through the Department. Most, if not all such research will be related to one or more of the research frameworks as defined below. The Department will also initiate and host forms of research collaboration, for example in the forms of regular seminars, colloquia and conferences in the fields of religion, theology and ethics. It will continue to offer teaching programmes in related areas and will admit students for postgraduate studies upon application to the Department.

The Centre will identify and approve through its Board a number of research-related “activities” (to avoid confusion with registered research “projects” and teaching “programmes”). These research activities may or not be related to research projects of

members of staff in the Department. Typically, research activities of the Centre will be characterised by a) the need for multi- and trans-disciplinary collaboration on social transformation also beyond the fields covered in religion and theology, b) formal or contractual collaboration with other institutions, including Faith-Based Organisations and Community-Based Organisations and funding agencies, c) external funding that is not tied only to the projects of individual members of staff, and d) the need to host visiting scholars and students working in a multi- and trans-disciplinary context. In short, the Centre will not recognise activities for which no budget is provided but will of course be involved in ongoing planning towards such activities.

The Department notes the following current activities of the Centre:

- An annual Forum with Faith-Based Organisations and Community-Based Organisations (hosted by the Centre with funding provided by EMW at R50 000 for 2017);
- Mpilo-project on the legacy of Archbishop emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu: The Theology and Ethical leadership of Desmond Tutu (a core research activity of the Centre's Director and the Desmond Tutu Chair, funded through their salaries, publications in this regard to be funded through EMW)
- Food, Values and Ethics programme (funded through the Mellon Foundation at R8.4 million for 2015-2017, shared with a project on Food Politics and Cultures: Humanities Approaches to Food and Food Systems);
- Conferences on Gender-based violence with the South African Faith and Family Institute and the Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum (funded through EMW);
- German/South African Study Project on Churches in the History of South Africa, Phase III: "The South Africa we pray for" (conference planned for September 2017 at UWC, to be hosted in collaboration with the South African Council of Churches, funded through German churches and EMW at R120 000);
- Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Project (in collaboration with the AHA-movement on Authentic Hopeful Action to address Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality, to be funded through EMW, R50 000);
- Emerging Voices colloquium (hosted in collaboration with the Department of Religion and Theology, funded through EMW);
- **BCGS**;
- Politics of Identity, Ethics, Reconciliation (PIER) (application for STINT funding submitted)

2. Religion, Ethics and Social Transformation

The following components were identified within the research framework entitled "Moral education towards a Human Rights Culture as established in 2006:

- a) Ethical theory
- b) Responsibility theory
- c) Moral dimensions of worldview theory
- d) Discourse on a human rights culture
- e) The "global ethic" initiative and debate
- f) Moral and religious education in Southern African schools
- g) Violence against women and children; women's issues
- h) HIV/AIDS education
- i) Gender and Homosexuality
- j) The role of religion in society to support moral cohesion
- k) The role of the formation of personhood in community development
- l) Ethical reflection on biotechnology
- m) Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality: Christian authentic hopeful action
- n) Food Contestation: The symbolic construction of food consumption in the context of food insecurity"

Under the research framework of Religion, Ethics and Social Transformation as reconceptualised here the following areas have been identified as core themes for current and envisaged research in the department:

- a) Teaching on the Moral and Religious Foundations of Society
- b) The Role of Religion in Society to Support Moral Cohesion
- c) Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality: Authentic Hopeful Action
- d) Food, Ethics and Values
- e) The Symbol of Reconciliation

Progress was made in 2016 on the following aspects while plans are also underway for 2017 in some of these areas. Significant achievements are highlighted in yellow. Where significant developments in conceptualising a collaborative project took place in 2016, this is included where appropriate.

a) Teaching on the Moral and Religious Foundations of Society

In moral language a confusing set of concepts is typically used. In modules offered by the department a distinction is made between the role played by visions, virtues, values and obligations while related concepts such as goals, attitudes, principles, rules and moral codes also bear scrutiny. This invites ongoing reflection on basic moral concepts.

Plans	T Sakupapa	Develop first year text book on responsible decision making
Plans	C Lombard, et al	Develop first year textbook on world religions and their moral codes

b) The role of religion in society to support moral cohesion

There is, of course, a rich tradition of academic reflection on the role of religion in society and more specifically in moral formation. This role is typically explained in functional terms. However, this has become highly contested in the Western world and in Africa alike. What, then, is the role of religion (more specifically ecumenical engagement) in moral formation within the African context?

Local faith communities have traditionally played a crucial role in maintaining the moral fabric of society. This role is recognised in the so-called Böckenförde principle which holds that the moral fibre of modern (Western) societies rely on moral sources that such societies cannot themselves guarantee or sustain. The moral fibre may be explained in generic categories (values, virtues, visions, duties) but the sources of inspiration behind them are particular and cannot be captured through a generic sense of religiosity. They are typically embedded in the archetypes, symbols and belief systems of religious traditions. To sustain such moral sources, the particularity of such traditions therefore has to be taken seriously.

This role of religion in caring for the vulnerable and in dispensing aid is widely recognised as indispensable in Africa, also by international aid organizations. Churches in South Africa have a long and outstanding track record of providing social services around education, health, caring for the deaf, blind, elderly, orphans and the homeless.

This role of local faith communities in maintaining the moral fabric of society may be described in sociological terms (for example in an important study by Robert Putham and others on “American grace”) and is recognized in secular contexts, sometimes even with a sense of envy. Local faith communities rely on voluntary participation yet attract large numbers of very regular and highly committed adherents. Together, Christian churches form the largest and best supported organization on the African continent. Local faith communities typically (but not always) have trusted leaders who command considerable moral authority (which also leaves room for abusive charismatic leadership). Local faith communities draw on long-standing moral codes and traditions of wisdom that are widely accepted by their adherents. They are carriers of symbols and archetypes that people regard as persuasive and transformative. In contexts of rapid social change such moral communities help to maintain the “moral fabric of society”, that is, some stability in terms of family structures, the cultivation of virtues such as care, and an ethos of respect for others and commitment to distributive and contributive justice.

Local faith communities nevertheless seem ill-equipped to make much of a difference to issues at the local level that are regarded as national priorities and at times resist such agendas imposed from the outside. As a result the reception of ecumenical initiatives in local

faith communities is widely regarded as an intractable problem. Moreover, through processes of rapid social change such moral communities become fragmented faster than they are replenished – which bodes ill for the moral fabric of society. Many religious communities in Africa have become trapped in a consumerist culture of greed and even promote such a culture, for example through the “prosperity gospel”. This may offer religious motivation for an upward social mobility but may also undermine the very sources of the moral fibre of society mentioned above. Moreover, trust in religious leadership is undermined by scandalous reports on abusive charismatic leadership, corruption, financial mismanagement and sexual misconduct by religious leaders.

This deep-seated tension between the possibilities of faith communities to maintain the moral fibre of society and their limitations to foster social transformation forms a core interest of the Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society.

In February 2016 (Stellenbosch) and June 2016 (Berlin) Prof Conradie participated, on behalf of the Department in planning sessions with partners at Humboldt University, Stellenbosch University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in order to prepare an application to establish an International Research Training Group, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) on the German and the National Research Foundation (NRF) on the South-African side. Such an application entitled “Religion, Situated Knowledge, and Social Transformation” was submitted in August 2016 to the DFG. In the application Prof Heike Becker, Ernst Conradie, Sarojini Nadar, and Ignatius Swart were listed as principal investigators.

The following specific research activities may be listed in this regard that are not addressed elsewhere:

PhD Project	T Solomons	“Partnerships between Faith-Based Organisations and government in Elsie’s River”; Ongoing PhD project (2014-); Supervisor: EM Conradie
PhD Project	E Baron	South African newspaper reports on corruption: A rhetorical analysis of the media in moral formation; Ongoing PhD project (2014-); Supervisor: EM Conradie
MA project	P Ehlers	A comparison of the views of Augustine Shutte and Thaddeus Metz on African philosophy and Ubuntu ethics; ongoing Master’s project; supervisor C Lombard & T Oyowe
Planning	EM Conradie, S Nadar, I Swart	Continue with planning towards the International Research Training Group

c) Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality: Authentic Hopeful Action

Progress was made in the following areas in 2016:

PhD Project	R Davids	“The Viability of the South African National Development Plan and Amartya Sen’s Theory of Ethical Development”; Ongoing PhD project (2014-); Supervisor: C Lombard; Submitted November 2016
PhD project	D Chowdury	Ecumenical perspectives towards a spirituality for the liberation of the poor in South Africa”; Ongoing PhD project (2015-); Supervisor: C Lombard
MPhil thesis	M Nkosi	“Restitution in South African economic policy documents, 1994-2014”; MPhil thesis, Supervisor: EM Conradie, Graduated August 2016
MA project	SH Mohammed	Sustainable economic development; Ongoing Masters project; Supervisor R Gallant

d) Food, Ethics and Values

Progress was made in the following areas in 2016:

Post-doc project	G Byarugaba	Exploring the influence of food symbolism on food insecurity in Roman Catholic communities in Eastern Cape and Western Cape Provinces – South Africa
Post-doc project	M Kotze	“Fighting Finitude: The argument for GMO food in the light of Christian views of sin as sloth and as pride” Postdoctoral project that commenced in 2015
MPhil project	ML Kagee	The Implementation of Islamic Perspectives on Nutrition in the Context of Muslim Faith-Based Organisations in Cape Town; Supervisors: M Saidi, EM

		Conradie;
M Phil project	C Khan	Food relief or food security? A study of the policies and programmes of five Muslim social welfare organisations in South Africa; supervisors: EM Conradie, M Saidi
Teaching	EM Conradie	Taught a postgraduate module on “Religion and Food contestation” in the first semester of 2016.
Paper	EM Conradie	Do “Climate Justice, Food Security ... and God: Some Reflections from the Perspective of Ecotheology”: Keynote paper read at a consultation on “Ecotheology, Climate Change and Food Security”, hosted by the World Council of Churches, Globethics.net, Bread for the World and United Evangelical Mission in cooperation with the Volos Academy and the Orthodox Academy of Crete in Volos, Greece, 12-13 March 2016.
Paper	G Byarugaba	“Exploring the Influence of Food Symbolism on Food Insecurity in Roman Catholic Communities in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape Provinces”: Paper presented at the Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the field of Religion and Theology, i.e. at the Theological Society of South Africa’s sessions on “From Farm to Fork: Theological and Ethical reflection on the production, distribution and consumption of food.”
Paper	EM Conradie	“What do we do when we eat? A theological investigation”: Paper presented at the Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the field of Religion and Theology, i.e. at the Theological Society of South Africa’s sessions on “From Farm to Fork: Theological and Ethical reflection on the production, distribution and consumption of food.”
Paper	M Kotze	“GM food and collective sin: A Christian theological ethical reflection”: Paper presented at the Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the field of Religion and Theology, i.e. at the Theological Society of South Africa’s sessions on “From Farm to Fork: Theological and Ethical reflection on the production, distribution and consumption of food.”
Paper	M Kotzé	“Gender and Food in the Eucharistic Community: A Theological Reflection”: Paper read at the Annual Conference of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa), May 2016.
Paper	M Kotzé	“Feasting on flesh: Vegetarianism, the Eucharist and Resisting Injustice”: Paper read at a conference of the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom), September 2016.
Paper	M Kotzé	“Fighting Finitude: The Christian view of sin in relation to consumption of GM food and food contestation”: Paper read at a colloquium on Redeeming Sin at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (San Antonio, United States of America), November 2016
Article	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. “What do we do when we eat? Part 1: An inconclusive inquiry.” <i>Scriptura</i> 115, 1-17. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.7833/115-0-1291.
Article		Conradie, EM 2016. “What do we do when we eat? Part 2: A theological inquiry.” <i>Scriptura</i> 115, 1-19. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.7833/115-0-1293.
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Climate Justice, Food Security ... and God: Some Reflections from the Perspective of Ecotheology”. In: Werner, D & Jeglitzka, E (eds): <i>Climate Justice and Food Security: Theological Education and Christian leadership Development</i> , 109-134. Geneva: Globethics.net.
Article	M Kotzé	Kotzé, M. 2016. “Human genetic engineering and social justice in South Africa: Jürgen Moltmann and human dignity”. <i>Acta Theologica</i> 36(1), 70-84.
Article	M Kotzé	Kotzé, M. 2016. “GM food and collective sin: A Christian theological ethical reflection.” <i>Scriptura</i> 115, 1-12.

In addition the possibility of a working arrangement between the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the Food Basket for Africa (FBFA), was discussed at various meetings involving John Klaasen and Christo Lombard of UWC and Keith Johansson and R Barry of FBFA.

e) The Symbol of Reconciliation

“Reconciliation” may be regarded as one of the operational concepts employed to express a vision for social transformation in South Africa towards 2030. Some postgraduate projects fall in this area:

PhD project	D Solomons	“Reconciliation as a controversial symbol: An analysis of a theological discourse in South Africa between 1968 and 2010” Ongoing PhD project, jointly registered at VU University Amsterdam and UWC (2011-); Supervisors: EAJG Van der Borgh & EM Conradie
PhD project	N Hosler	Brother Hauerwas: An analysis of the contribution of Stanley Hauerwas to peacemaking (2014-); Ongoing PhD project; Supervisor: EM Conradie
Essay submitted	EM Conradie	“Conversion towards radical inclusivity”. Essay submitted for a volume on the 30th year celebration of the Belhar Confession, edited by Mary Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel and Leepo Modise (submitted September 2015).

Other research activities within this framework

MA thesis	L October	“Whistle blowing: What is whistle blowing and for whom and what does the law offer protection in South Africa?” M A project (2012-); Supervisor: DG Lawrie; Graduated April 2016
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3. Religion and Gender

Sarojini to conceptualise, with inputs from Christo, with 3-5 core rubrics

Progress was made in 2016 in the following areas while plans for 2017 are also indicated. Significant achievements are highlighted in yellow. Where significant developments in conceptualising a collaborative project took place in 2015 for the first time, this is included where appropriate.

Please do include the following ongoing work as reflected in the 2015 report.

Gendered relationships between intimacy and violence

PhD Project	E Petersen	“Residential programmes for ministry to perpetrators of domestic violence”; Ongoing PhD project (2011-); Supervisors: C Lombard et al
MA Project	M Ceres	“Family planning and progeny: A critical analysis of the positions of Gamal Eldin Attia, Abdul Fadl Mosin Ebrahim and Abdel Rahim Omran”; ongoing Masters project; supervisor MR Gallant
Paper	M Pillay	“#SexismMustFall: A call to the church”: Paper read at Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians Conference on conference on Gender and Resistance (in light of #Feesmustfall Movement). 5 May 2016
Paper	M Pillay	“Community of Persons in Ubuntu and Christianity: Rethinking Masculinities”. Paper read at Theological Advisory Committee (of SAFFI) on Gender Based Violence: Second Annual Roundtable Consultation, 4 August 2016.
Paper	M Pillay	“On Making Provision for Blessing of Same-sex Unions: Theological Reflections” Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Benoni, 29 September 2016.

Plans	C Lombard M Pillay	Host Consultation/conference on “Bible, Church, Gender, Sexuality”, 7-14 February 2016
Plans	M Pillay	Co-host (with Prof Juliana Claassens) a conference on "Gender and Resistance". Present a paper #SexismMustFall: A call to the "church"

HIV/AIDS and education

PhD project	D Lambrecht	"This Church is HIV/AIDS Friendly": A critical Assessment of Aids Care and Support groups in the False Bay Diocese (ACSA); ongoing PhD project (2011-); Supervisor: MN Pillay
Paper	M Pillay	"On Making Provision for Blessing of Same-sex Unions: Theological Reflections" <i>Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa</i> , Benoni, 29 September 2016.
Book review	M Pillay	"Religion and HIV and AIDS: Charting the Terrain, UKZN Press. Review published in JTSA no 156, November 2016, pp 124-126.

4. Religion and Development

A broad and critical theological and religious studies interest in the meaning of development as public discourse and practice frames this focus area. From this vantage point the focus area builds on the research work and specialisation over many years in the related fields of "theology and development", "religion and development" and "Christian diaconia" (diaconal studies) by one of the department's newly appointed staff members, Prof. Ignatius Swart. A few highlights of his past work include:

- A book publication drawing on development debates in the international ecumenical movement and the theoretical work of David Korten, *The churches and the development debate: Perspectives on a fourth generation approach* (I. Swart, Sun Press, 2006);
- NRF funded research that led to the book publication, *Religion and social development in post-apartheid South Africa: Perspectives for critical engagement* (I. Swart et. al., Sun Press, 2010);
- NRF and Sida funded research that led to the book publication, *Welfare, religion and gender in post-apartheid South Africa: Constructing a South-North dialogue* (I. Swart et al., Sun Press, 2012);
- Alexander von Humboldt funded project research that led to a major 47-page research article in the *International Journal of Practical Theology* (Vol. 12, 2008): Swart, I., "Meeting the challenge of poverty and exclusion: The emerging field of development research in South African practical theology";
- NRF and Academy of Finland funded research (2013-2016) for the project, "Youth at the margins: a comparative study of the contribution of faith-based organisations to social cohesion in South Africa and Northern Europe". An anthology is currently under preparation as final outcome of the project (see also below);
- A special collection of 19 articles in *HTS Theological Studies* (Vol. 72, No. 4, 2016), "Engaging development: Contributions to a critical theological and religious debate" (ed. I. Swart and A. Adogame).

As one of the department's newly established focus areas, concerted effort will be made to seek synergy and collaboration with the other focus areas in the department (with which the focus area on "Religion and development" share very pertinent common thematic and research interests). Moreover, the collective effort by staff members towards taking the focus area forward should be emphasised and in this respect the more recent, ongoing research work of another staff member, Dr. John Klaasen, focusing on questions of personhood in community development should especially be recognised.

The following are core rubrics under which the focus area will be pursued and further developed:

- (a) The role of the formation of personhood in community development.
- (b) Religion and the development of the South African society.
- (c) Marginalisation, exclusion and poverty as a practical theological and diaconal concern.
- (d) Discourses, topical foci and perspectives on practice in the fields of religion and development and theology and development.
- (e) Engaging development: in search of development alternatives and alternatives to development in theological and religious perspective.

Progress was made in 2016 in the following areas while plans for 2017 are also indicated. Significant achievements are highlighted in yellow. Where significant developments in conceptualising a collaborative project took place in 2016, this is included where appropriate.

(a) The role of the formation of personhood in community development

To what extent can the influential secular models of development do justice to the category of personhood? There is a complex process through which people come to accept responsibility for addressing their situations.

During John Klaasen’s recent study leave he researched the work of influential scholars Amartya Sen and David Korten. He is now busy with research towards a constructive contribution which may be developed with conversation partners such as the Orthodox theologian John Zizioulas (the author of *Being as Communion*), Desmond Tutu’s ubuntu theology and John Mbiti.

This is clearly a large project that will take a number of years to complete.

Plans	J Klaasen	Continue with the project in 2017
PhD project	R Leanya	Supervisor J Klaasen
Article	J Klaasen	The Dialectic Approach of Rosemary Radford Ruether. <i>Journal of Gender and Religion in Africa</i> Vol. 22 No 1 (July 2016).
Article		‘Identity, race and faith: The role of faith in post-Apartheid South Africa’, <i>HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies</i> 72(2) (2016).

(b) Religion and the development of the South African society

This rubric, from a related theological and religious studies interest, will constitute a major component in the ongoing development of the focus area through new project work (especially within the ambit of NRF funding opportunities), international research collaboration and post-graduate research and teaching. Ignatius Swart was the lead editor of a special collection in the centenary volume of *HTS Theological Studies* that included a number of contributions by South African scholars focusing on very specific South African issues and challenges.

The following table include a list of activities relevant to the subject area that were undertaken in 2016 whilst plans for 2017 are also indicated.

Paper	I Swart	Swart, I. 2016. The enduring power of development in South Africa: What have the religious sector and its leadership achieved? Paper presented at the Third Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the Field of Religion and Theology, Pretoria, 11-15 July 2016.
Paper	I Swart	Swart, I. 2016. Meeting the power of development in post-apartheid South Africa: What has the theological-ecclesial and religious sector achieved? Paper presented at the international conference “The Churches of the Reformation in their Social and Political Responsibility for the One World: Case Studies and Country Analyses from Africa, Asia, America and Europe”, University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology, Hermannsburg (FIT), 22-25 June 2016.
Presentation	I Swart	Invited speaker at the book launch of J. W. Beukes, <i>Belhar en ‘n Teologie van Ontwikkeling in ‘n Konteks van Armoede en Ongeregtigheid</i> , Huguenot College, Wellington, September 2016.
Edited volume	I Swart	Swart, I. & Adogame, A. (eds.) 2016. ‘Special Collection: “Engaging development: Contributions to a critical theological and religious debate”’,

		<i>HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies</i> 72(4), 4382. http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.4382 (19 articles in total)
International collaboration & PhD project	I Swart	Ignatius Swart contributed to the conceptualisation of Research Area 3 on Religion and Development for the international IRTG proposal submitted to the German Research Council in September 2016. The following theme has been included in the proposal as a possible PhD project under Swart's supervision: "Meeting the challenge of poverty and social exclusion: The theological-ecclesial concern with development and its impact on the welfare and social work in selected denominational traditions in post-apartheid South Africa."
Teaching	I Swart	During the second half of 2016 and beginning of 2017 the first attempts have been made to develop undergraduate and post-graduate courses in "Religion and Development" that include a very concerted South African interest and focus.
Plans	I Swart	Completion of draft paper for journal publication: "The enduring power of development in post-apartheid South Africa: What have the religious sector and its leadership achieved."
Plans	I Swart, J Klaasen, J Beukes & N Bowers du Toit	Continuation of plans as part of a UWC/Stellenbosch University/Huguenot College partnership to organise a colloquium that will revitalise an ecumenical discussion about the role of the churches in development in contemporary South Africa. Prospective theme: "Moving beyond charity: The role of the churches in development in contemporary South Africa."
Plans	I Swart	Working as a longer-term project towards a monography building on Swart's past research work in the subject area.
Plans	I Swart	Collaboration with researchers from the Humboldt University of Berlin in the research project: "Potential of Cooperation with African Initiated Churches for sustainable development." This is a project already funded for a second round by the German Ministry for Development Cooperation.

(c) Marginalisation, exclusion and poverty as a practical theological and Christian diaconal concern

This thematic focus constitutes an important continuation of Ignatius Swart's past and present research work and publication. Whilst overlapping strongly with the aforementioned theme of "Religion and the development of the South Africa society", the focus at the same time accommodates a more pertinent engagement with the related issues of marginalisation, exclusion and poverty from a practical theological and Christian diaconal perspective. In particular, the international research project on "Youth at the margins" (YOMA) conducted from 2013-2016 under Swart's co-leadership can be highlighted as a prime case in point of the most recent undertaking under this rubric (see also below). From this vantage point and the specific research progress made in 2016, it is anticipated that post-graduate students from the fields of practical theology and diaconal studies (both nationally and internationally) will be attracted to do research under this theme, not least from an interest in pursuing research on the highly relevant issue of youth marginalisation.

Project work	I Swart	Successfully organised the Final (Third) Working Conference of the South Africa – Nordic International Research project, "Youth at the margins: A comparative study of the contribution of faith-based organisations to social cohesion in South Africa and Nordic Europe", Joie de Vivre Conference Venue, Klapmuts, 25-28 October 2016. Twenty-one researchers from South Africa, Finland, Norway and South Africa participated.
Paper	I Swart	Swart, I. & Holte, B. H. 2016. Understanding youth marginalisation through NEET – A South African – Nordic European exchange of perspectives. Paper presented at the 6th Biennial Conference for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi), "Diaconia in Dialogue – The Challenges of Diversifying Contexts", Diaconia University of applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland, 15-17 September 2016.

Paper	I Swart	Swart, I. & Rabe, M. 2016. Faith-based organisations and marginalised youth in Pretoria, South Africa. Paper presented at the 6th Biennial Conference for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi), “Diaconia in Dialogue – The Challenges of Diversifying Contexts”, Diaconia University of applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland, 15-17 September 2016.
Article	I Swart	Swart, I. 2016. Relating to the poor: Conceptualizations of Christian diaconal practice considered through the lens of human dignity. <i>Diaconia: Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice</i> 7(1):3-26.
Publication in progress	I Swart et al.	Book publication (submission to Brill as prospective publisher in the series “Theology in Practice”): “Stuck in the margins? Young people and faith-based organisations in South African and Nordic localities”.
Draft chapter	I Swart et al.	“Understanding youth marginalisation through NEET? A South African – Nordic European exchange of perspectives”. Draft chapter for the prospective book publication: “Stuck in the margins?”
Draft chapter	I Swart et al.	“Lost in diversity: FBOs and marginalised youth in Pretoria”. Draft chapter for the prospective book publication: “Stuck in the margins?”
Draft chapter	I Swart et al.	“FBOs’ response: Intentions, practice and ambiguities”. Draft chapter for the prospective book publication: “Stuck in the margins?”
Plans	I Swart	Develop an international partnership in research and teaching under this rubric with staff at the VID Specialized University, to which Swart is affiliated as Kjell Nordstokke Guest Professor.

(d) Discourses, topical foci and perspectives on practice in the fields of religion and development and theology and development

This rubric can be regarded as central to the development of the focus area from the point of view of meta-theoretical and empirical exploration. With this in mind the following can be highlighted as underlying features of this component of the focus area:

- The inter- and transdisciplinary aim of drawing upon and bringing into academic conversation two distinguishable sources: the different streams (or traditions) of theological-ecclesial discourse and debate on development that have evolved internationally over a time span of more than six decades, but also the flourishing new international social science field of religion and development of the last decade or two;
- The degree to which the exploration under this rubric should serve as a fundamental source for informing and strengthening the other areas/rubrics of research in the focus area on the theoretical, methodological and epistemological level;
- The wide scope for thematic and situational/contextual exploration across the spectrum of global, regional, national and local concerns;
- The deliberate intention to strengthen the contribution of African scholarship and its counterparts from the global South in the international theological and religious debates about development, and in so doing contribute to the decolonial and post-colonial project.

Ignatius Swart was the lead editor and initiator of a special collection in the centenary volume of *HTS Theological Studies* that included besides the contributions by South African scholars, eight contributions by scholars from elsewhere in Africa and the wider African diaspora, as well as two scholars respectively from China and Latin America.

Concerning the progress made in this area in 2016 and the plans for 2017, the following can be listed:

Edited volume	I Swart	Swart, I. & Adogame, A. (eds.) 2016. ‘Special Collection: “Engaging development: Contributions to a critical theological and religious debate”, <i>HTS Theologiese Studies/Theological Studies</i> 72(4), 4382. http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.4382 (19 articles in total)
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Article	I Swart & E. Nell	Swart, I. & Nell, E. 2016. Religion and development: The rise of a bibliography. <i>HTS Theological Studies</i> 72(4), a3862. http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.3862
Submitted book manuscript	I Swart with C. Wepener et al.	Wepener, C., Swart, I., Ter Haar, G. and Barnard, M. (eds.), <i>Bread & Wine & Kentucky Fried Chicken: A ritual lens on social capital formation in African Independent Churches in South Africa</i> . Book manuscript submitted to Peeters Publishers, February 2017 as final outcome of the NRF funded project, "The role of religious ritual in the formation of social capital for social development".
Submitted chapter	Swart, I & G. Ter Haar	Swart, I. & Ter Haar, G., From social capital to religious social capital: Towards addressing the missing element of religious ritual. Chapter 2 of the book, <i>Bread & Wine & Kentucky Fried Chicken: A Ritual Lens on Social Capital Formation in South Africa</i> .
Book project	I Swart	Ignatius Swart acts as a consultant and member of the editorial team for a book project of the Network for African Congregational Theology (NetACT Africa) on "Theology and Development". As part of this ongoing process he will as in 2016 attend a workshop in Kenia in July 2017 where papers will be presented by prospective contributors to the book.
Teaching	I Swart	During the second half of 2016 and beginning of 2017 the first attempts have been made to develop undergraduate and post-graduate courses in "Religion and Development" with an intentional incorporation of this rubric.
International collaboration	I Swart	Ignatius Swart contributed to the conceptualisation of Research Area 3 on Religion and Development for the international IRTG proposal submitted to the German Research Council in September 2016. The research programme, if successfully funded, will make a substantial contribution towards this rubric of the focus area.
Plans	I Swart	Collaboration with researchers from the Humboldt University of Berlin in the research project: "Potential of Cooperation with African Initiated Churches for sustainable development." This is a project already funded for a second round by the German Ministry for Development Cooperation.

(e) Engaging development: In search of development alternatives and alternatives to development in theological and religious perspective

This rubric will be developed in creative tension with the other rubrics in the focus area by making a very necessary contribution towards enhancing the critical element in the overall focus on development. In so doing, it will from a Christian theological and broader religious studies point of view not only contribute to ideas about an "alternative society" (as an imaginative alternative to global capitalism, and so on) but by implication also to ideas relevant to the already mentioned decolonial and post-colonial project.

The following can be listed regarding progress made in this area in 2016 and the plans for 2017:

The already mentioned special collection on "Engaging Development" in *HTS Theological Studies* (2016) can be appreciated as an important incentive towards giving momentum to this rubric. In particular, it included contributions from South African theologians renowned for operating in the mode of liberation and black theological scholarship, e.g.

- De Beer, S., 2016, 'The "good city" or "post-colonial catch-basins of violent empire"? A contextual theological appraisal of South Africa's Integrated Urban Development Framework', *HTS Theological Studies/Theological Studies* 72(4), a3543. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.3543>
- Velle, V., 2016, 'A dialogue with Sen's Theory of capabilities and its implications for our National Democratic Revolution', *HTS Theological Studies/Theological Studies* 72(4), a3581. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.3581>

In addition, the article by Ernst Conradie in the above-mentioned collection made an integral contribution to this rubric.

Ignatius Swart contributed to the conceptualisation of Research Area 3 on Religion and Development for the international IRTG proposal submitted to the German Research Council in September 2016. The following theme relevant to this rubric has been included in the proposal as a possible PhD project under Swart's supervision: "Alternatives to neo-liberalism: A comparative analysis of theological and religious debates post 2000".

Edited volume	I Swart	See above
Article	EM Conradie	Conradie, E.M., 2016, Why cannot the term development just be dropped altogether? Some reflections on the concept of maturation as alternative to development discourse', <i>HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies</i> 72(4), a3415-1. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.3415-1
Plans	I Swart & E Conradie	Revive an initiative for a scholarly engagement with South Africa's "National Development Plan".
Plans	I Swart	Undertake new initiatives to engage with theologians and ideas from the liberation, black and kairois theological traditions around the idea of development.

5. Ecumenical Theology and Spirituality in Africa

The following components have been identified since the larger research framework was established in 2006:

- a) Mapping Systematic Theology in Africa;
- b) Bibliographic research on Systematic Theology and Ethics in African theology;
- c) The development of a series of textbooks in Systematic Theology for use in (Southern) Africa;
- d) Conferences in the field of African Christian theology;
- e) African perspectives on "Ecclesiology and ethics";
- f) Reconciliation Processes in Theological Perspective;
- g) Ecumenical theological education in the African context;
- h) The quest for denominational identity in South Africa;
- i) Ecumenical discourse on the "God of Life".
- j) Other contributions to systematic theology

Under the research framework of Ecumenical Theology and Spirituality in Africa as reconceptualised here the following areas have been identified as core themes for current and envisaged research in the department:

- Mapping Systematic Theology in Africa
- African perspectives on "Ecclesiology and ethics"
- The quest for denominational identity in South Africa
- Multi-Faith dialogue on Spirituality in Africa

Progress was made in 2016 in the following areas while plans for 2017 are also indicated. Significant achievements are highlighted in yellow. Where significant developments in conceptualising a collaborative project took place in 2015 for the first time, this is included where appropriate.

a) Mapping Systematic Theology in Africa

The following postgraduate projects are currently registered in this area:

PhD project	M Jambulosi	"Evangelisation and unity in 20 th century Ecumenism: A comparative study of the roles of <i>Missio Dei</i> and unity in the Lausanne Movement and the World Council of Churches"; ongoing Ph.D. research project (2010-); Supervisor: HSA Engdahl
PhD Project	A Potgieter	"Pan-African theology in the context of the United States"; Ongoing PhD project (2011-); Supervisor: HSA Engdahl

MTh thesis	K Brooks	“Deliver us from evil”: A critical analysis of soteriological discourse in African Pentecostalism; MTh thesis (2011-); Supervisor: EM Conradie; graduated April 2016
Essay	T Sakupapa	Sakupapa, TC 2016. National Survey of Christianity: Zambia. In Phiri, IA, Werner, D, Kaunda, C & Owino, K (eds): <i>Anthology of African Christianity</i> , 758-765 Oxford: Regnum Books.
Essay	T Sakupapa	Sakupapa, TC 2016. Prophets in the Zambian/African Context: A Survey from an Ecumenical Perspective. In: Kroesbergen, H (ed.). <i>Prophecy Today: Reflections from a Southern African Context</i> , 113-128. Christian Literature Fund.
Plans	H Engdahl	Book project: African Theology Ancient and Modern – the Theologies of Origen and (John) Mbiti
PhD project	B Anofuechi	The Ubuntu theology of Desmond Tutu; ongoing PhD project (2016-); supervisor J Klaasen

Hans Engdahl has made substantial progress with the book project. Here is a provisional table of contents:

African Theology, Ancient and Modern. The Scholarship of Origen and Mbiti – and the Tension between Philosophy and Theology (working title)

- Chapter 1: Purpose, Method and Structure
- Chapter 2: Mbiti and African Religion and Philosophy
- Chapter 3: Mbiti’s Ecclesiology
- Chapter 4: Mbiti’s Eschatology
- Chapter 5: Origen and Platonic Cosmology
- Chapter 6: Origen’s Ecclesiology
- Chapter 7: Origen’s Eschatology
- Chapter 8: Origen and Mbiti on the Resurrection
- Chapter 9: Concluding Remarks. Purpose, Method and Structure Revisited

b) African perspectives on “Ecclesiology and ethics”

The core question posed in the project on ecumenical theology in Africa as a whole is related to an understanding of the nature and forms of ecumenicity in Africa. This is shaped by tensions between ecumenical discourse on Faith and Order and on Life and Work, also captured under the tension between “ecclesiology” and “ethics”, spirituality and society, Christianity and culture, or faith and science.

The following progress has been made in this area:

PhD Project	T Sakupapa	“Ecclesiology and Ethics: An analysis of the history of the All Africa Conference of Churches”; Ongoing PhD project (2013-); Supervisor: EM Conradie; submitted December 2016
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Notions and Forms of African Ecumenism. In Phiri, IA, Werner, D, Kaunda, C & Owino, K (eds): <i>Anthology of African Christianity</i> , 871-875. Oxford: Regnum Books.

c) The quest for denominational identity in South Africa

A number of postgraduate projects fall more or less within this area.

PhD thesis	K Kondolo	“The ministry of music: A case study on the United Church of Zambia and the New Jerusalem Church”; PhD thesis; Supervisor: EM Conradie graduated April 2016
MTh thesis	OB Anofuechi	“Pentecostalism and the further fragmentation of Christianity: An investigation of the factors contributing to the establishment of new churches in Belhar since 2000”; M.Th. project (2012-); Supervisor: EM Conradie graduated April 2016
PhD	H Bock	Congregational schisms in the Full Gospel Church; ongoing PhD research

project		project (2014-); Supervisor: EM Conradie
PhD project	K Benjamin	The reception of John Wesley's ministry in SA; ongoing PhD project (2016-); Supervisor: EM Conradie

d) Multi-faith dialogue on African spirituality

This area of research covers a variety of themes on spirituality in Africa taking into consideration both multi-faith dialogue and the emerging spiritualities associated with new religious movements in the (south) African context. Significant attention is placed on diversity and hybridity in the African religious thinking. Ongoing research in this field therefore includes a survey of the diverse spiritualities, their variegated forms and impact on society in general.

PhD project	R Marankey	The contemplative life and a life of contemplation: The cases of Thomas Keating (1946-) and Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) Ongoing PhD project (2016-); Supervisor: EM Conradie
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e) Other contributions to systematic theology

PhD Project	P Dankers	The two natures of Christ in Bonhoeffer's Christology; ongoing PhD project (2014-); Supervisor: EM Conradie
Article	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. "Divine Election and Migration: The Worst Possible Way to Address the Predicament of Refugees?" <i>Stellenbosch Theological Journal</i> 2:1, 131-148.
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Is the Ear More Spiritual Than the Eye? Theological Reflection on the Human Senses. In Evers, Dirk, Fuller, Michael, Runehov, A & Saether, K-W (eds): <i>Issues in Science and Theology: Do Emotions Shape the World?</i> , 177-188. Heidelberg: Springer.

4. Christian ecotheology

This collaborative project from the beginning included several subsidiary projects.

- a) Ecological theology: A bibliographic survey
- b) Hope for the earth: Ecology, eschatology and cosmology (1996-2000, completed)
- c) The crown of creation? Anthropology, ecology and eschatology (2000-2005, completed)
- d) The earth and God's work of creation and redemption (2006-2014, completed)
- e) Theological reflections on a culture of consumerism
- f) Ecological hermeneutics
- g) The Christian Faith and the Earth project (2007-2013) (completed)
- h) The church and climate change
- i) Ecological concerns related to a theology of place
- j) Ecology and mission
- k) Pneumatology and ecology (completed)
- l) Ecology and liturgy
- m) Redeeming Sin: Hamartiology, ecology and social analysis / diagnostics
- n) Ecclesiology and ecology
- o) Other contributions to ecotheology

From 2017 onwards the following themes have been identified as core rubrics for ongoing and further research:

- The state of the debate in Christian ecotheology
- Redeeming Sin: Hamartiology, ecology and social diagnostics
- Christian theology and climate change
- Liturgy and ecology

Progress was made in 2016 in the following areas related to this research framework while plans for 2017 are also indicated. Significant developments are highlighted in yellow. Where significant developments in conceptualising a collaborative project took place in 2016 for the first time, this is included where appropriate.

a) The state of the debate in Christian ecotheology

This is broad focus area in which Ernst Conradie has engaged from time to time. The following research activities may be mentioned in this context:

Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Approaches to Religion and the Environment in Africa. In Bongmba, EK (ed): <i>Routledge Companion to Christianity in Africa</i> , 438-453. New York: Routledge.
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Christianity: An Ecological critique of Christianity and a Christian Critique of Ecological Destruction. In Jenkins, W, Tucker, ME & Grim, J (eds): <i>The Routledge Handbook of Religion & Ecology</i> , 70-78. New York: Routledge.
Short essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM, Tsalampouni E & Werner, D (eds) 2016. Manifesto on an Ecological Reformation of all Christian Traditions: The Volos Call. In Werner, D & Jeglitzka, E (eds): <i>Climate Justice and Food Security: Theological Education and Christian leadership Development</i> , 99-108. Geneva: Globethics.net.

b) Redeeming Sin: Hamartiology, Ecology and Social Diagnostics

Ernst Conradie, together with Manitza Kotze and Newton Cloete, has registered a major long-term collaborative project under this title. For the conceptualisation of this project, see the report on 2013 and plans for 2014. Collaborators elsewhere in South Africa and further afield have been identified and participated in colloquiums on “Redeeming Sin” held at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (August 2015) and San Antonio (November 2016). It is envisaged that will be the major focus within the research framework on Christian ecotheology for the next few years.

The following developments indicate current progress within this project

PhD project	NM Cloete	“What on earth is wrong with the world? Five Christian voices on hamartiology and ecology”; ongoing PhD project registered in 2015; supervisor: EM Conradie,
Article	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. John Haught on Original Sin: A Conversation. <i>HTS Theologese Studies/Theological Studies</i> , 72:4, http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.3437 , 1-10.
Article	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Penultimate Perspectives on the Root Causes of Environmental Destruction in Africa”. <i>Scriptura</i> 115, 1-19. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.7833/115-0-1279 .
Paper	EM Conradie	“Do only humans sin? In conversation with Frans de Waal”: Paper presented at the 16th European Conference on Science and Theology on “Are We Special? Science and Theology Questioning Human Uniqueness, held in Łódź, Poland, 26 April to 1 May 2016.
Paper	EM Conradie	“Posse non peccare?” Paper read at a colloquium on “Redeeming Sin?”, hosted in San Antonio, 17-18 November 2016.
Manuscript	EM Conradie	“Redeeming Sin? Social Diagnostics amidst Ecological Destruction” Monograph submitted for publication with Lexington
Plans	EM Conradie	To engage in a series of bilateral conversations with various scholars on various aspects of social diagnostics. For 2017 this will include Christopher Southgate (for a Festschrift to be published in Zygon). For 2017 and beyond I hope to engage with the work of the late Zygmunt Bauman
Plans	EM Conradie	To write a semi-popular article on the universality of sin for @ This point, a journal published by Columbia Theological Seminary

Ernst Conradie enjoyed a period of study leave in the second semester of 2016 in order to work on one phase of the larger project on “Redeeming Sin”. He worked as visiting scholar at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur Georgia, focusing mainly on the completion of the manuscript of a monograph on “Redeeming Sin”.

The core agenda of the monograph is to prepare the way to re-introduce the Christian concept of sin in the public sphere (i.e. to offer a public theology of sin) by suggesting that sin-talk may be regarded, at least from the outside, as a form of social diagnostics. This suggests that Christian theology can participate in the multi-disciplinary task of addressing the colloquial but evasive question: “What is wrong in the world?” This question may be raised with reference to climate change, various forms of violence and economic inequality. Given the spiritual nature of the deepest underlying problems, such a role for philosophy, religion and theology may be welcomed by some. However, in order to even consider a place for Christian sin-talk in the public sphere a number of serious obstacles have to be addressed. These include challenges from the perspective of evolutionary biology, animal ethology and the cognitive sciences on the plausibility of such sin-talk and more specifically the assumption of the contingency of the fall (widely assumed in calls for moral responsibility). The challenge is especially grave as far as the Augustinian notions of *posse non peccare* (it was possible not to sin) and *non posse non peccare* (it is no longer possible not to sin, i.e. “original sin”). This agenda is addressed in the title of the manuscript: Can (the category of) sin still be redeemed?

Here is a table of contents for the manuscript as submitted in January 2017:

Table of Contents

Preface Error! Bookmark not defined.

Introduction: Sin and Social Diagnostics Error! Bookmark not defined.

What has Gone Wrong with the World? The Appropriate Question? **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 The Obvious Need for Social Diagnostics.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Setting the Agenda.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1. Penultimate Perspectives on the Roots of Environmental Destruction in Africa Error!

Bookmark not defined.

What are the Causes of Environmental Destruction in Africa?.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Some Observations on Root Cause Analysis.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 The Root Causes of Global Environmental Destruction.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Sin and Depth Diagnostics.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Conclusion**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

2. Where Have Things Gone Awry in Evolutionary History? Error! Bookmark not defined.

The Biological Roots of (Social) Diagnostics**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Setting the Scene.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Ten Statements on Diagnostics.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

3. How is the Story of What Went Wrong in the World to be Told? Error! Bookmark not defined.

An Analysis of Three Versions of the Narrative Plot.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 The Manichaean-Darwinian-capitalist Plot**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 The Augustinian-Marxist Plot.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 The Pelagian-liberal Plot.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 An Irenaean-Whiteheadian-Bretton Woods Version of the Plot?.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Concluding Observations.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

4. Obstacles Thwarting a Retrieval of a Christian Notion of Sin Error! Bookmark not defined.

Introduction.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 The “Sunny Side of Sin”?.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Obstacles Thwarting a Retrieval of the Christian Discourse on Sin...**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 a) Cultural Resistance against Christian Discourse on Sin.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 b) What is the Appropriate Key to Talk about Sin?.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 c) The Plausibility of Sin-talk: The Fall, Original Sin and Human Culpability**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 d) The Universality of Sin?.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 e) What, Then, is Sin, After All? Some Intractable Theological Problems**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Conclusion: The Place and Complexity of Sin-talk.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5. Posse non peccare? Error! Bookmark not defined.

The Contingency of Sin**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Some Core Intuitions**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 A Plausibility Test.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

A Constructive Thesis.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 Plausible? Some Concluding Comments.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Conclusion: Engaging in Social Diagnostics Error! Bookmark not defined.

Bibliography Error! Bookmark not defined.

Index of Names and Subjects Error! Bookmark not defined.

c) Christian theology and climate change

The following progress was made with regard to this dimension of the larger project:

Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Epilogue: Theological Reflections on Ecumenical Action and Advocacy on Climate Change. In Kim, Grace Ji-Sun (ed): <i>Making Peace with the Earth: Action and Advocacy for Climate Justice</i> , 234-247. Geneva: WCC.
Plans	EM Conradie	Submitted proposal for an edited volume (280 000 words) on Christian Theology and climate change in the series of T&T Clark handbooks (co-edited with Hilda Koster)
Plans	EM Conradie	Co-edit with Ezra Chitando a series of articles on “Praying for Rain: African perspectives on Religion and Climate Change”, to be published in <i>The Ecumenical Review</i>
Plans	EM Conradie et al	Co-edit with Ezra Chitando, upon invitation, a volume on Religion and climate change in Africa for publication with Routledge

As indicated above, there are some highly ambitious plans in place for collaborative, inter-continental discourse on religion / Christian theology and climate change. More details will be provided in subsequent reports.

d) Ecology and liturgy

Andre du Plooy completed a Masters project related to liturgy and cosmology under the supervision of Hans Engdahl in 2015 and started with a PhD project in 2016. Ernst Conradie makes regular contributions to ecclesial publications in this area.

PhD-project	AJ du Plooy	Alexander Schemann's Liturgical theology; Ongoing PhD project; Supervisor: HSA Engdahl
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. An Emerging Horizon: Learning to See the World in a Different Light through the Liturgy. In Buxton, G & Habel, N (eds): <i>The Nature of Things: Rediscovering the Spiritual in God's creation</i> , 41-57. Eugene: Pickwick.
Exegetical essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Preekstudie – Eks 3:1-4. In: Orsmond, E & Botha, JG (reds): <i>Woord en Fees: Preekstudies met liturgiese voorstelle gebaseer op die Leesrooster 2016/2017</i> , 238-244. Stellenbosch: BUVTON.
Plans	EM Conradie	Make similar contributions for the Leesrooster in 2016 with a focus on the “Season of Creation”

In addition to the above, the following theme as previously prioritised was completed in 2016:

n) Ecclesiology and ecology

This was a subsidiary project that emerged from the Christian Faith and the Earth project. After some considerable debate on the way forward an edited volume entitled “The Church in God's Household: Protestant Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ecology”, edited by Clive W. Ayre and Ernst M. Conradie was published by Cluster Publication in 2016. The volume includes an introduction, chapters on ecology and leitourgia, kerygma, diakonia, koinonia, marturia, on the distinctive nature of the church and reflections from other confessional traditions.

Edited	EM Conradie	Ayre, CW & Conradie, EM (eds) 2016. <i>The Church in God's Household</i> :
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volume		<i>Protestant Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ecology</i> . Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications.
Essay	R Agyarko & EM Conradie	Agyarko, RO & Cilliers, J with inputs from Ernst M. Conradie and Philippa Rowland 2016. Ecology and Proclamation (kerygma). In Ayre, CW & Conradie, EM (eds): <i>The Church in God's Household: Protestant Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ecology</i> , 31-53. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications.
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM with inputs from Kapya J. Kaoma and Annalet van Schalkwyk 2016. Ecology and Mission (Marturia): The Church in God's House-Holding. In Ayre, CW & Conradie, EM (eds): <i>The Church in God's Household: Protestant Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ecology</i> , 94-115. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications.
Essay	T Sakupapa	Nalwamba, K & Sakupapa, TC. Ecology and fellowship (koinonia). In Ayre, CW & Conradie, EM (eds): <i>The Church in God's Household: Protestant Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ecology</i> , 94-115. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications.

o) Other contributions

Popular handbook	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM & Field, DN et al 2016. <i>A Rainbow over the Land: Equipping Christians to be Earthkeepers</i> . Edited by Rachel Mash. Wellington: Bible Media.
Essay	EM Conradie	Conradie, EM 2016. Ecumenicity, Mission, Environment. In Ross, K et al (eds): <i>Ecumenical Missiology: Changing Landscapes and New Conceptions of Mission</i> . Regnum Edinburgh 2010 series, 320-330. Oxford: Regnum Books.
MTh project	J Bailey	Poverty, Wealth and Ecology: A critical analysis of the World Council of Churches' project initiated by the Justice and Peace Unit of the WCC between its Porto Alegre (2006) and Busan (2013) assemblies. Ongoing MTh project (2016-); Supervisor EM Conradie

5. Biblical, theological and contextual hermeneutics / rhetorical theory

This is not a registered research framework, but covers the research done in the fields of Biblical Studies and Hermeneutics. Both the main contributors focus on the rhetoric of biblical texts, Miranda Pillay using the socio-rhetorical approach of Vernon Robbins and Douglas Lawrie the rhetorical theory of Kenneth Burke. Dr Pillay works mainly in the areas of Luke-Acts and disease, bodily integrity and stigma, the work in the latter area being relevant to her interest in the problem of AIDS. Prof Lawrie works mainly on biblical narratives and the wisdom literature. He is a member of the newly formed working group on wisdom literature, a subgroup of the Old Testament Society of South Africa. He is also often involved in conferences and colloquia connected to the research focus on human dignity at the Theological Faculty of Stellenbosch University and has delivered and published several papers connected to this theme.

At post-graduate level, this area is covered in the modules TST731 and TST831 (Old Testament Studies), TST732 and TST832 (Old Testament Exegesis), TST733 and TST833 (New Testament Studies), TST734 and TST834 (New Testament Exegesis), and TST735 and TST835 (Biblical Hermeneutics). Several of these are on offer every year.

Two further activities in the area of Biblical Studies deserve mentioning:

- Pillay, Lawrie and also Conradie annually contribute two or more sermon studies with exegetical notes on the texts prescribed in the Common Lectionary. These appear in *Preekstudies met Liturgiese Voorstelle Gebaseer op die Leesrooster*, published at Stellenbosch by Communitas.
- For some time Lawrie participated in the new Afrikaans translation of the Bible, of which the first printed version (Psalms and New Testament only) is to appear this year. He was the main translator and exegete for the books of Judges and 1 Kings.

MTh project	R Cloete	A Socio-Rhetorical reading of Luke 7:36-50: Towards an a contra-cultural reading in the context of benevolent patriarchy in a South African Context"
MTh project	A McClennan	Fertility cults and barrenness in the Old testament; Ongoing MTh-project;

		supervisor DG Lawrie
PhD project	J Evans	"The Interpretation of Judeo-Christian Texts by New-atheist Authors: A Hermeneutical Assessment", Ongoing PhD project (2014-); Supervisors: EM Conradie & DG Lawrie
PhD project	L Chalice	
PhD project	M Faleni	The house of Jacob & patriarchy; Ongoing PhD project (2014-); Supervisor: DG Lawrie
MTh project	CM Sebolai	A social-rhetorical reading of Rev 12:1-6; Ongoing masters project; supervisor: MN Pillay
Paper	M Pillay	"Let's go Biblical on Gender?" Paper presented at International Workshop on Bible, Church, Gender, Sexuality, University of the Western Cape, 7-14 February 2016.
Paper	M Pillay	"For the Bible tells me so: A reflection on Gender Power-relations in a South African Context". Paper read at an International Conference on Truth be Told: Speaking out against Gender-based Violence, Rhema Ministries, Johannesburg, 14-17 September 2016.

6. Individual Research Plans

Research Plans for 2017: Ernst Conradie

My research plans for 2017 include the following, more or less according to a time line:

- Complete and submit manuscript on "Redeeming Sin: Social Diagnostics amidst ecological Destruction" with Lexington and oversee the publication process;
- Solicit contributions for a T&T Clark Companion on Christian theology and climate change (with Hilda Koster);
- Work towards a textbook on environmental ethics to be used in Ethics 311;
- Write an invited essay on the universality of sin for @ This point (a popular journal published by Columbia Theological Seminary);
- Write an essay on "Praying for Rain?: Reformed Perspectives from the South African context", for publication in *The Ecumenical Review*;
- Co-edit (with Ezra Chitando) a number of invited articles on "Praying for Rain?" for publication in *The Ecumenical Review*
- Host a one-day colloquium with members of the Department of Religion and Theology on the National Development Plan;
- Write exegetical essay on Psalm 48 on the theme of "God en Grond: Wie word in die Psalms geseën?", in the context of the celebration of a Season of Creation in Christian congregations;
- Write review essay for the annual meeting of the Theology of South Africa on Klaus Nürnberger's Systematic Theology;
- Write contribution on "Social evil and natural evil" in bilateral conversation with Christopher Southgate for a Festschrift in his honour;
- Plan towards a bilateral conversation with Zygmunt Bauman on social diagnostics.

Research Plans for 2017: Hans Engdahl

For 2017, I plan the following activities

- Finalize book project entitled "African Theology Ancient and Modern – A Study of Origen and (John) Mbiti", (300 – 400 pp)
- Article "Deconstructing Aulén's Christus Victor: Inconsistencies regarding soteriology and creation theology" to be submitted to a journal for publication.
- Publish material from the post-graduate course "Black Atlantic: African theology, black theology and gender", together with Lawrence Burnley and Karin Sporre, in book form.
- Publish research article together with André du Plooy on Liturgical Cosmology.
- The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Real impact or scratching the surface? Reconciliation as politics and/or theology (monograph 2019).
- Article "The Kingdom of God and Realized Eschatology. An Appraisal of C.H. Dodd's Theology".

Research Plans for 2017: John Klaasen

- Continue with my research project
- Present a paper at the Combined Theology Society meeting in July
- Submit two peer review articles for publication
- Apply and deliver a paper at the International mission institute conference in Seoul

Research Plans for 2017: Douglas Lawrie

- Edit existing notes “Introduction to the World of the Old Testament” for publication as a text book for first-year students.
- Complete the work on a selection of essays to be published under the title *Lines of Communication*.
- If time permits, I intend to work further on the book *Theology as Aesthetics*.

Research Plans for 2017: Christo Lombard

Work is still continuing on the texts of two *readers* (to be published in the Departmental Series: *Studies in Religion and Theology*):

- A reader for the module ETH 121, paper 2: *The Moral Codes of the World's Religions*. A reader for the module ETH 121, paper 1: *Religion, Worldviews and Ethics* is also being planned for publication in 2015. [Recent discussions indicate that this should be an integrated publication, for which a draft plan is ready.]
- A basic reader for the module ETH 212: *Moral discourse on Human Rights and Civil Society* is being discussed with the lecturers who have also taught this module. Whether this can be done in 2015 is dependent on various factors.
- Work is continuing on a monograph on the theology of Albert Arnold van Ruler (1908-1970) – in Afrikaans (in the Departmental Series *Studies in Ethics and Theology* - an update and publication of my dissertation on Van Ruler's theology, hopefully to be followed by a major publication on the relevance of Van Ruler's theology (in English).
- The original plan to publish the papers delivered at the IRE Conference on Moral Formation and Ethics at School (September 2011, at UWC and Stellenbosch) has now been abandoned since most of these papers have been published individually in journals.
- Work will continue on two publications to be edited for the “Ecclesiology and Ethics” programme, with a focus on Ecumenical theology and Social Transformation:

A web-based publication, which can be updated from time to time, emerging from the two think tanks (of 29 August 2013, on *Ecumenical engagement in the form of NGO's and FBO's as dynamos for social transformation in the Western Cape*, and the follow-up on 31 October 2014). The purpose of this publication will be to provide details of the participating organisations, their goals, activities and problems.

A volume on *Guiding visions for the transition to a post-apartheid society* (based on meeting of Friday 9 November 2012 and ongoing discourse on these visions, as part of the “Ecclesia and Ethics project), will be edited after the June 2015 conference, bringing this project to a close.
- The paper read at the launch of the Desmond Tutu Centre (2 December 2014), on “Desmond Tutu's Style of Ethical Leadership” – will probably be published in the *International Journal for Public Theology*. This may lead to a more substantive publication on this topic.
- In June 2015 an article on “The German churches and the Namibian churches and the dilemma of the SWAPO detainees”, will be published in Volume 2 of the research done on the role of the German churches in Southern Africa, edited by Hanns Lessing et al (Wuppertal: VEM). The launch of this publication is planned to take place in Soweto and at UWC, in June 2015.
- Submitting two articles for publication in NGTT: “Going beyond Barth in the 21st century?” and “The gentle reformed promptings in Willie Jonker's theology”.
- A separate report is available on all the work done with regard to the Desmond Tutu Chair and the new Desmond Tutu Centre, some of which also includes aspects of research and academic networking. [See the 17 page report to Evangelisches Missionswerk, as sent to EMW on 29

August 2014.] This report also illuminates some of the plans dealt with in this report, e.g. making provision for budgets to support the research connected to the Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality foci of the AHA movement and project, publications coming out of the Food Contestation Project, and the further publications still due from the Ecclesiology and Ethics project.

Research Plans for 2017: Miranda Pillay

Research Plans for 2017: Teddy Sakupapa

- Complete my PhD research project entitled “Ecclesiology and Ethics: A History of the All Africa Conference of Churches, 1963-2013.”
- Prepare a paper on Religion, Power and Empire for the Council for World Mission DARE World Forum.
- Publish a peer reviewed article on the current state of ecumenical theology in Africa in light of the ecclesiology and ethics debate.
- Publish a peer reviewed article on “Trinitarian Perspectives in African Theology: An Ecumenical Interrogation for the 21st Century”.

Research Plans for 2017: Demaine Solomons

First Semester 2017

- Complete my PhD study entitled; “Reconciliation as a Controversial Symbol: An analysis of a theological discourse in South Africa between 1968 and 2010”.

Second Semester 2017

- Submit at least one peer reviewed article based on the findings of my PhD study.

Research Plans for 2017: Ignatius Swart

I will work towards the following research related outcomes in 2017 (although not all the outcomes may be concluded in 2017):

1a: I am the co-editor (with C. Wepener, G. ter Haar and M. Barnard) of the following book manuscript that has been submitted to Peeters Publishers in The Netherlands in the first week of February 2017: Bread & Wine & Kentucky Fried Chicken: A ritual lens on social capital formation in African Independent Churches in South Africa.

1b: I am also the first author of one of the main theoretical chapters in the book, titled “From social capital to religious social capital: Towards addressing the missing element of religious ritual.”

2a: I am the lead editor of a book manuscript currently in preparation to be submitted to Brill Publishers under the provisional title Stuck in the Margins? Young People and Faith-based Organisations in South African and Nordic Localities. The manuscript is the outcome of the NRF-Academy of Finland funded project “Youth at the margins” (YOMA) conducted in 2013-2016 under my co-leadership.

2b: I am also the co-author of three chapters forming part of the manuscript. This includes the case study chapter based on empirical research that I conducted with Prof. Marlize Rabe from Unisa in the inner-city of Pretoria.

3. I am currently working on a second draft of the Pretoria case study chapter for the above-mentioned manuscript based on the finalised empirical work. In addition, my aim is to use the opportunity of this new round of exploration of the empirical data to present a paper on the case study work at the forthcoming conference (20-24 April) of the International Academy of Practical Theology in Oslo, Norway. The abstract that I submitted is titled: “Trapped in the margins? Faith-based organisations and marginalised youth in a South African city space.”

4. I will present one of the keynote papers at the Summer School of the International Research Training Group (IRTG) in Pietermaritzburg, 27 February – 1 March 2017. The summer school is the product of a partnership between the Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany), University of the Western Cape, University of KwaZulu-Natal and Stellenbosch University. An application for longer term research collaboration has been submitted to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and could lead to major funding for research collaboration involving the NRF.

5. I am appointed as Kjell Nordstokke Guest Professor of Diaconal Studies at the VID Specialised University in Oslo, Norway since September 2016. My responsibilities in 2017 will include paying two short visits to the VID as part of an endeavour to establish long-term contact in the areas of research and post-graduate teaching.
6. I have in collaboration with my colleague at UWC, Dr. John Klaasen, and Dr. Jacques Beukes from the Huguenot College started a process to organise a colloquium on the role of the Confession of Belhar as foundational source to reinvigorate a discussion in the circles of the Uniting Reformed Church and Dutch Reformed Church on the role of the church in development in present-day South Africa. The idea of such a colloquium is inspired by Dr. Beukes' book published in 2016, *Belhar and a theology of development in a context of poverty and injustice*. Stellenbosch: SUN Press.
7. I am a member of the editorial team leading a book project of the Network for African Congregational Theology (NetACT Africa) on "Theology and Development". As part of this ongoing process I will attend a workshop in Machakos, Kenya in July where papers will be presented by prospective contributors to the book.
8. I have been invited (personal invitation) to participate in the Fifth Religion and Society Research Directors Colloquium of the centre of excellence programme, IMPACT ("Impact of Religion: Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy") in Uppsala, Sweden, from 4-6 September 2017: "Rethinking theoretical and methodological approaches in the interdisciplinary study of religion-society intersections." I intend, under the latter theme, to present a paper on my ongoing research in the field of religion and development, provisionally titled "Towards a greater balance in the contributions from the global North and global South to the international field of religion and development".
9. I intend to prepare a revised version of my chapter mentioned in 1b above to publish as an article in *Religion & Theology: Journal of Contemporary Religious Discourse*. Following negotiations with the executive editor of R & T there is the possibility that the article could be published in the second issue of 2017 under the prospective title, "Social capital, religious social capital and the missing element of religious ritual."
10. In 2016 I progressed far with the writing of an article titled, "Meeting the power of development in post-apartheid South Africa: What has the religious sector and its leadership achieved". I could unfortunately not complete the article due to my move from University of South Africa to University of the Western Cape in July. I intend to complete the article in 2017 and submit it for publication to the journal *HTS Theological Studies*.
11. Preparing and presenting my inaugural lecture constitute an important outstanding task following my appointment at UWC in July 2016. I intend to submit the lecture for publication.

Research Plans for 2017: Robert Owusu Agyarko

Research Plans for 2017: Yaw Adu-Gyamfi