

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES IN THE COLLEGE OF  
HUMAN SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH  
AFRICA (UNISA)**

**in collaboration with**

**VukaniBantuTsohangBatho and the Council for World  
Mission invite you to the Black Theology of Liberation  
International Conference**

**Conference Theme:**

**UNTHINKING THE WEST: THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE  
OF DOING BLACK THEOLOGY OF LIBERATION FOR  
DECOLONIAL TIMES?**

**Date: 15-17 November 2022**

**VENUE: UNISA MUCKLENEUK CAMPUS, PRETORIA**

This conference commemorates the lives of Vuyani Vellem, James Cone, Kattie Cannon, Robina Winbush and other ecumenists, prophets and theologians whose shoulders we stand on in our quest for justice and the liberation of the oppressed.

Looking at the continued importance of doing Black Theology of liberation for decolonial times? The conference explores several questions posed on BTL in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that has been engulfed with a myriad of issues including the covid-19 pandemic which has exposed inequalities in most of the countries in the Global South. Issues that seem to have attained permanence as a crisis on which BTL must live, namely problems of poverty, unemployment, inequality, landlessness, reconciliation, economic liberation and globalisation in economics, HIV and AIDS, ecological diseases, violence against women and children, genocide and wars, human rights and disability, marginalisation of sexual minorities, black and white consciousness, postcolonial discourse and global interaction, religious and military fundamentalism, neo-colonialism. And whether they are indeed a permanent crisis for a black interlocutor?

An era that has arguably brought some shifts on the globe and our country as well as the current socio-political, economic, spiritual landscape and, faith discourses. Questions on whether there is still a need for a black confessing church in South Africa post covid-19?

Define tomorrow.



UNISA



Whether BTL needs an epistemological broadening additional to the content matter of socio-economic-religious aspects to include much more deeply a critical discourse towards other societal imbalances such as covid-19, ecology, gender-based violence, human trafficking, disability, marginalisation of sexual minorities, and post- and de-colonialism?

While the relevance of BTL has been a question for others especially several theological innovations some of which have been paraded as successor paradigms to liberation; with some being parasitic fraudsters co-opting the elements of the liberation paradigm without ceasing; this conference looks at the importance of BTL as a discourse that “intentionally un-thinks the West” (Vellem 2017). Boesak’s (2009) views on the Black Church, even Tshaka’s (2014), Mofokeng’s major work on Christology (1983) and many others if not the school as a whole indicate that the conceptual independence of BTL is attained only when it seriously considers itself as un-West (Vellem 2017).

This conference further looks at the probability of the sporadic collaboration between black men and women to deeply question what BTL itself identified as a triple oppression of women. This collaboration and even serious engagement between Womanist discourse whose liberating praxis (Cannon 2009) is to decentre the West (Kobo 2019) and BTL in responding to the perennial constructs of violence against women and ultimately the advancement of the school to respond to questions of human sexuality surely can be viewed as adequate in our times. In addition, violence against women, children and sexual minorities’ post covid-19 is psychotic with litanies of self-directed anger amongst the blacks, the interlocutors of BTL itself.

Vellem, V.S. 2017. Un-thinking the West: The spirit of doing Black Theology of Liberation in decolonial times. *HTS Theologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, 73(3).

Boesak, A., 2009, *Running with the horses. Reflections of an accidental politician*, Joho Publishers, Cape Town.

Tshaka, R., 2014, ‘On being African and reformed? Towards an African reformed theology enthused by an interlocution of those on the margins of society’, *HTS Theological Studies* Art. #2070, 7 pages. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v70i1.2070>

Mofokeng, T., 1983, *The crucified among the crossbearers: Towards a black Christology*, Theologische Akademie, Kampen.

Cannon, K.G. 2006. Response. To the roundtable discussion: Must I be Womanist? *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (Indiana University Press), 22(1), 96-98.

Kobo, F.A., 2019, “‘Womanism and black anthropology’: In memory of James Cone”, *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* 162 & 163, 82–100.

## Guidelines for submission to the Black Theology conference:

All contributions concerning themes within the Liberation paradigm will be considered for presentation for the Black Theology conference programme, and submissions of full length works will be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed edited volume/s. Papers will be considered if they deal with any one or more of the topics below:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black Theology</li><li>• Dalit Theology</li><li>• Minjung Theology</li><li>• Liberation Theology</li><li>• Womanist theology</li><li>• Feminist Theology</li><li>• Decolonialisation</li><li>• African Women's Theology</li><li>• African Theology</li><li>• African Spirituality</li><li>• African Religiosity</li><li>• African Philosophy</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black Spirituality</li><li>• Black Anthropology</li><li>• Black Consciousness</li><li>• Pan Africanism</li><li>• Asian Theologies</li><li>• Asian Spiritualities</li><li>• Asian Anthropology</li><li>• Latin American Theologies</li><li>• Latin American Anthropology</li><li>• Latin American Philosophy</li><li>• Pedagogy</li><li>• Sexuality</li></ul> |
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## Deadlines and format for submission:

We welcome abstracts of **250-300** words, which should be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 to [yukanibantutsohangbatho@gmail.com](mailto:yukanibantutsohangbatho@gmail.com) . Please include the title of the paper, the selected sub-theme, 4-6 keywords, the author (s) full name, institutional affiliation and email address. Participants will be informed by 31<sup>st</sup> June 2022 if the abstract has been accepted. Registration commences from 1 August to 31 October 2022 – further details will be provided.

## Conference Fees:

- Post Graduate Students/ Adjunct /Associate Staff (African): R1500-00
- Post Graduate Students/Adjunct/ Associate Staff (International): R2000-00
- Tenured Faculty (Africans): R 2500-00
- Tenured Faculty (International): R 3000-00

The conference fee includes your conference material, tea/coffee, three lunches and one dinner). Please note that you have to arrange your own accommodation, options will be provided at a later stage. **In exceptional cases there will be a waiver granted for African Post grads and Adjunct Staff who request it.**

Send enquiries to [yukanibantutsohangbatho@gmail.com](mailto:yukanibantutsohangbatho@gmail.com) (Subject Line: Fee

## Waiver Request)

## Publication:

Selected papers will be published in an open-access accredited publication on the theme of the conference, with **HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies** in 2023. Additionally, papers will also be published in the **Prophets from the South** book series of the Council for World Mission.

For inquiries on the conference – please contact Prof Fundiswa Kobo at

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