

Topics and Speakers

for specific Faculties and Interest Groups

International Conference “Freedom – Our Responsibility”

26 – 30 Sept. 2014 UFS Bloemfontein

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Faculties and Fields of Interest

4 Law, Constitution & Conflict Resolution

4.1 Law & Conflict Resolution

- **Platfontein Leadership, South Africa & Dries Velthuisen, IDRA, UNISA Pretoria**
Conflict Resolution & Traditional Justice System of the San People
in Collaboration with “The Platfontein San Dispute Resolution Field Research Team”
The San People have had their own systems for conflict resolution and justice for centuries. Nowadays they collaborate with the official justice system to negotiate solutions in criminal cases of their own people. Their restorative approach with the goal of conciliation between perpetrator and victim is fascinating and might be role-model for other justice systems.
A collaboration with the ‘**Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa**’ IDRA, UNISA Pretoria and a **participatory research on conflict transformation**.
- **Jonathan Jansen, South Africa**
Keynote Speaker
Rector & Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State
Jonathan Jansen is Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State
He is a strong proponent of intellectual freedom and the first black president of UFS. After he was appointed he subsequently initiated a process for campus-wide racial integration among students. In 2010 The University was awarded the World Universities Forum Award for Best Practice in Higher Education which praised amongst other the **racial integration and harmonisation of the student community**.
Jansen is the Honorary Professor of Education at the University of the Witwatersrand and Visiting Fellow at the National Research Foundation.

- **Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, South Africa**

Acknowledgement of Responsibility for the Past is Essential for Reconciliation: The Problem of Denial of Complicity

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is a Senior Research Professor in Trauma, Forgiveness and Reconciliation Studies at the University of the Free State. Her current research applies the insights emerging from her study of forgiveness to explore **the dynamics of empathy and the transformative shifts that open up in dialogue processes between former enemies in the aftermath of historical trauma.**

Her books include the award-winning *A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness*, for which she won the Alan Paton Award in South Africa, and the Christopher Award in the United States. Her other books include *Narrating our Healing: Perspectives on Healing Trauma*, as co-author; as co-editor of *Memory, Narrative and Forgiveness: Perspectives on the Unfinished Journeys of the Past*, and as editor of the forthcoming volume, *Breaking Intergenerational Cycles of Repetition: A Global Dialogue on Historical Trauma and Memory*.

Her honours include: an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, 2006, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, 2007, being honoured among “100 People who Made a Difference” in the Permanent Exhibit of Hall of Heroes in the National Freedom Centre in Cincinnati, Ohio in the United States, 2005, and the Social Change Award from Rhodes University, 2010.

- **Rommel Roberts, South Africa**

An Empowerment Struggle in Poverty Alleviation

Rommel Roberts has a theological background and has been a human rights activist of several years standing dating back to the early 70s and has a history dotted with a symphony of elements that include periods of imprisonment, leading massive boycotts and successfully concluding a 10 year long struggle against the hated pass laws.

He recently published a book in German detailing human rights stories of forgotten heroes of the struggle against apartheid. He worked closely with Icons like former Archbishop Desmond Tutu and facilitated numerous human rights and development organisations throughout the country, some of which he formed and headed up like the Quaker Peace Centre in Cape Town and a current rural development institution, Hilltop empowerment centre in the Eastern Cape. Rommel has remained committed to the liberation of the poor and oppressed through many current initiatives and brings to the conference a vast array of experiences that integrate development with restorative justice and reconciliation.

- **Paul Hoffmann, South Africa**

The Bill of Rights and Constitutional Accountability

As the constitution forms the basis of the new liberated society, Paul Hoffman gives a clear indication and direction to how governance would be enacted by the Government of the day. It forms the fundamental framework by which the leadership is held accountable in fulfillment of the Bill of Rights of all its citizens. It is thus important having an active and vociferous civil society that holds government leadership directly accountable, using all forms and tools available to it, as enshrined in the constitution. This makes for a healthy and vibrant society. Paul Hoffmann has an outstanding record as an advocate of the South African Bar (legal institution Bar Counsel) and a history in the field of human rights. He directs the ‘Institute for Accountability’ and has directed this NGO in the practice of human rights application with specific focus on constitutional rights implementation and exposure of corruption and in this regard has been in the forefront of ground breaking legal battles including housing and the arms deal case, which is currently in progress. Paul has also produced small publications on the Bill of Rights and other legal awareness issues for public use.

- **Ray Minniecon, Australia and John Bond, UK**
Healing the wounds of the past - Australia's Sorry Day and Journey of HealingA multi-media story in words and song.

In Australia between 1910 and 1970, tens of thousands of Aboriginal children were removed from their families in an attempt to assimilate them into the culture of white Australia.

In 1997 the report of an inquiry into these policies brought to national attention their tragic outcomes.

The Australian Government attacked the report and refused to apologise. But 11 years later, the Australian Parliament came together in a unanimous and wholehearted apology.

Decisive in this change of heart was a community movement of a million people who signed Sorry Books, organized a nation-wide Sorry Day in 1998, and throughout the following decade took part in a Journey of Healing which worked **for truth, healing and justice for the Stolen Generations.**

Ray Minniecon is a member of the Gubi people of Queensland, lives in Sydney, and is a former Chair of the National Sorry Day Committee. He has done much work towards healing among the Stolen Generations of Aboriginal people. He is articulate, and will contribute greatly to the topics of the Conference.

John Bond was the Secretary of Australia's National Sorry Day Committee from 1998 until 2006, and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his commitment to Sorry Day and the Journey of Healing.

He worked with Initiatives of Change in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe for 10 years. He now lives in Oxford, UK, and coordinates the conference on Just Governance for Human Security, which brings several hundred people annually to the Initiatives of Change conference centre at Caux, Switzerland.

- **Bedan Mbugua, Kenya**
Courage to wave Relentless War against Corruption – A Personal Experience
Regional General Manager of Royal Media for the last eight years Kenya's largest media organization; former journalist. Editor in Chief of *People*, a daily newspaper; former editor of *Beyond*, a magazine banned in 1988 after **exposing government rigging in elections.** He was jailed for nine months by the state. He again was jailed for six months for **exposing corruption in the Judiciary** in 1994.

In 2009, Bedan Mbugua and Archbishop Desmond Tutu were invited in the Solomon Islands to reconcile warring groups. Bedan spoke about 'courage to face truth'. Bedan

- **Georgette M. Norman, USA**
On the Road to Human - an attempt to promote a more humane and informed way to look at moral choices we confront in our daily lives

Georgette M. Norman, Museum Director of the Rosa Parks Museum at Troy University, Montgomery, Alabama, USA talks about the prerequisites for personal and group empowerment and self-determination. Does the elimination of discrimination and social inequities strengthen our nation and protect the rights of all people?

Shouldn't the emphasis be first and foremost on **human rights**?

- **Paul Weinberg, South Africa**
**The San of Today (photographic and film contributions);
Moving Spirits, workshop/panel on Telling Stories and Making a Difference**
Paul Weinberg is a photographer, occasional filmmaker and writer, teacher, and archivist. He has worked extensively on **human rights issues concerning indigenous people and land.** His in-depth documentation about the lives of the modern San living in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa (including Platfontein) culminated in a number of exhibitions and

books including *In Search of the San* and *Once We Were Hunters*.

His project *Moving Spirit* which he will talk about, explores spirituality in South Africa and the diverse and rich practice of spiritual engagement within South Africa.

Paul Weinberg was a founder member of Afrapix Photographic Agency, well known for its uncompromising stand and visual portrayal of the apartheid system and the resistance to it and later helped establish South Photographs, a family of South African documentary photographers.

He presently is a curator of Visual Archives at UCT Libraries and teaches photography and film in a Documentary Arts Masters Programme, Centre for Film and Media Studies at UCT.

4.2 Constitution

- **Ekuru Aukot, Kenya**

Leadership and Integrity in the light of the Constitution

Ekuru Aukot has a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise in the areas of constitutional law, policy, human rights, governance and forced migration.

His interest in the better governance of Kenya led him to co-found the G47, a political trust advocating for alternative leadership in Kenya in the light of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity; and where he is also its chief Spokesperson.

In 2011 Aukot successfully directed the writing of Kenya's new Constitution – meanwhile he is directing the eighth constitution on the African Continent, in Liberia.

He is writing his memoirs, *"A Constitution is Not a Shopping List"*, on the **Constitution-building and implementation process** in Kenya and is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya as well as a proprietor of *Ekuru Aukot Law Consulting*.

Ekuru Aukot consults corporations and Governments (e.g. Republic of South Sudan)

- **Paul Hoffmann, South Africa**

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- **Acuil Malith Banggol, South Sudan**

Inclusive Governance for Unity in Diversity

Acuil M. Banggol considers the need to search for inclusive governance that is responsive to South Sudan multinational and multicultural values as high priority.

Three important points for Inclusive Governance:

- commune federalism as a foundation of either states or regional federalism
- a mode of democracy that incorporates representative democracy and multiparty democracy



complemented with Inclusive Democracy that is responsive to demands on affirmative action not only on gender but on cultural values
- direct democracy that allows and mandates results of plebiscite and referenda.
With 'Taking Towns to Rural Peoples' in South Sudan envisions provision of basic social services be taken from town to rural areas, to let the indigenous people take part in the globalized and information technology world and at the same time strengthening the rural areas - thus preventing the migration of youth into towns and safeguarding food security. With great engagement in the fields of sports (TWIC Olympics), agriculture (SUPRAID), policy design and business he strives to promote peace, harmony and interdependence. He trains and facilitates workshops & conferences on **policy advocacy and conflict resolution**.

For other faculties and fields of interest & more information about the speakers
please check <http://zafor.org/contributors/speakers> on www.zafor.org

1 Natural, Agricultural & Building Sciences

- 1.1 Agriculture & Food Security
- 1.2 Water Retention System & Reclamation of Land
- 1.3 Architecture & Town Planning

2 Science, Engineering & Technology

3 Economic & Management Sciences

- 3.1 Leadership & Ethics
- 3.2 Economy & Management
- 3.3 Community Building, Empowerment, Micro-Financing, ...

4 Law, Constitution & Conflict Resolution

- 4.2 Law & Conflict Resolution
- 4.2 Constitution

5 Human Sciences & Theology

- 5.1 History & Policy Studies
- 5.2 Psychology, Philosophy, Theology, Sociology

6 Education

7 Health Sciences

8 Film & Arts