

ProPsalms and ProProphets Seminar 2018

Centenary Hall, Theology Building, University of Pretoria

Background

The University of Pretoria maintains a strong tradition with, *inter alia*, emphasis on the Psalms. Gratitude for this has to be served on the late Willem Prinsloo, for his efforts to promote the study of the Psalms in South Africa.

During 2003 a project was initiated at UP to internationalise and contextualise the study of the Psalms by means of a seminar. In view of various international cooperation relationships between the University of Pretoria and other international theological institutions this project was seen as a means to contribute the local and international theological debate. Another aim of the seminar is to develop the debate into discussions between Old Testament and various other disciplines of theology and religion. Furthermore, an important vision of the ProPsalms Seminar is to involve international Old Testament specialists in the project.

One of the intentions of the ProPsalms Seminar is not only to involve European and Western oriented theological paradigms, but also to include African voices and paradigms. The theological encounter between Africa and Europe (Western) on the Psalms in an attempt to create understanding amongst the different streams of theological ideologies. Africa needs this and Europe (Western theologies) could benefit from this.

The ProPsalms Seminars grew in stature and number during the past few years. These projects of the Department of Old Testament Studies at UP became part of the national Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTSSA) as a project of the subgroup for poetic studies.

During the past few years, in cooperation with the ProPent (Project Pentateuch) Seminar, these seminars have taken place in the second part of August. ProPsalms is a two-day seminar. About twenty meetings have already taken place, with a stronger international and local (national) presence every year. Students were also allowed to attend as silent participants. To build this enthusiasm it is imperative that presentations should be published internationally.

A seminar volume, *Psalms and Liturgy*, appeared in 2004 at T & T Clark (JSOT SS). A similar volume of the ProPent Seminar appeared in 2005 at Litverlag (ATM series) with the title *A Critical Study of the Pentateuch. An encounter between Europe and Africa*. In 2007 a following volume, entitled *Psalm and Mythology* (LHBOTS, 462 – formerly JSOT SS) appeared at T & Clark. *Psalms and Hebrews: Studies in Reception* (LHBOTS), 527 – formerly JSOT SS at T & T Clark) appeared in 2010, while the next volume is in preparation, namely *Psalmody and Poetry in Old Testament Ethics*. More volumes are envisioned and planned for the project in the next few years.



30 August 2018

Morning Session I: 08:20-10:30

Chair: Sias Meyer

- 08:20 - Welcoming: Prof. Dirk Human (Deputy Dean: Faculty of Theology / HOD: Old Testament Studies)
- 08:30 - Karin van Marle (UP) – Atmosphere and bodily presence
- 09:00 - Tiyiko Maluleke (UP) – Of wounded killers and failed men: Exploring the roots of some toxic masculinities
- 09:30 - Lerato Mokoena (Unisa) – Spoils of war and a walking battlefield: The libidinal economy of the woman's body
- 10:00 - Pieter Venter (UP) – Proverbs 1:22-30 – a cognitive analysis
- 10:30 - Coffee/Tea

Morning Session II: 11:00-12:30

Chair: Alphonso Groenewald / Dirk Human

- 11:00 - Dirk Human (UP) – Body and body parts in the Old Testament world
- 11:30 - Itumeleng Mosala (UP) – The Land Question: The Chickens Have Come Home to Roost - Returning to the African and Biblical Roots
- 12:00 - Charlotte Sibonyane (UP) – Body and land in Psalm 137

Break: 12:30-14:00

Afternoon Session: 14:00-16:00

Chair: Alphonso Groenewald

- 14:00 - Gert Prinsloo – “I will look to see what he will answer me” (Habakkuk 2:1): Prophetic body and divine message in the Book of Habakkuk.
- 14:30 - Peter Jenei (UP) – Circumcised Bodies and Circumcised Hearts. The Meaning and Significance of Circumcised/Uncircumcised Body-Parts in Prophetic Discourse
- 15:00 - Martin Slabbert – Space and bodily experience in Psalm 73

- 15:30 - Blessing Boloje – “When they have something to bite with their teeth” (Micah 3:5): Reading Micah's metaphor of food in the context of contemporary African religious landscape

31 August 2018

Morning Session I: 8:30-10:30

Chair: Sias Meyer

- 08:30 – Jo-Mari Schäder (UP) – The book of Jonah and the displacement of bodies and forced migration: what it is (not) saying
- 09:00 - Charlene van der Walt (UKZN) – “To the Wonder”. Finding God in the most unexpected places
- 09:30 - Liza Esterhuizen (UP) – The embodiment of Isaiah's children
- 10:00 - Alphonso Groenewald (UP) – The ‘Song of the Vineyard’ (Isaiah 5:1-7) through the lens of trauma and disaster studies
- 10:30 - Coffee/Tea

Morning Session II: 11:00-12:45

Chair: Ananda Geysler-Fouche

- 11:00 - Julie Claassens (US) – Jeremiah: The Traumatized Prophet
- 11:30 - Katharina Pyschny (Lausanne) – The Clothed and Unclothed Body in the Prophets

Break: 12:45-14:00

Afternoon Session: 14:00-16:00

Chair: Jurie le Roux

- 14:00 - Phil Botha (UP) – Psalm 32: Worship as a whole-body and whole community experience
 - 14:30 - Jaco Gericke (NWU) – Philosophical assumptions in recent research on the Psalms' language of divine embodiment and presence
 - 15:00 - KJ Kavusa (UP) – The Body of the woman as an “enclosed garden”: An eco-justice reading of Song of Songs 4:12-15
 - 15:30 - Conclusion: Dirk Human
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