

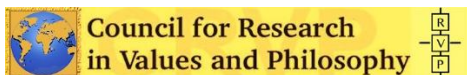


SJTI-RVP International Conference

Theme: Hermeneutic Changes in Values and Cultures

July 6-7, 2026

Hosted by: Department of Philosophy, St. Joseph's Theological Institute, Cedara, South Africa



**Southern African Catholic
Bishops' Conference**



Monday 6 July

Arrival and registration 8.15 am

8.45 am Opening Prayer

Word from Organisers: Yeping Hu/Mberikwazvo Ian Chitambo

Word of Welcome from SJTI Academic Dean and Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Dr. Patrick Aleke

Moderators: Sr. Kgomotso Majoafi CSA

Br. Tendai Gandanzara CMM

9.00 – 9.45 am Keynote Address Prof. Philippe Denis OP (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Group 1 (Nos. 1–3)

Foundational Hermeneutics and Value Reconstruction

(Exploring the philosophical underpinnings of hermeneutics and its role in reconstructing values across cultural, religious, and gendered contexts.)

- Dr. Patrick Aleke – *Hermeneutics and Realms of Meaning* (Foundational theory) (St Joseph's Theological Institute and University of KwaZulu-Natal) **9.45 to 10.05**
 - **TEA BREAK 10.05-10.30**
 - Bambi Ogram – *When Worlds Collide: Interpreting Tradition, Change, and Okonkwo's downfall in Achebe's Things Fall Apart* — Room A (St Joseph's Theological Institute) **10.30 to 10.50**
 - Nmesoma Michael Okeke – *Crisis of Values, Gynist Philosophy and Hermeneutic Reconstruction of Values* (Feminist/Gynist reconstruction) (Rivers State University, Port Harcourt) **10.50 to 11.15 ONLINE**
 - **QUESTION AND ANSWER 11.15 -11-40**
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Group 2 (Nos. 4–6)

Global Crises and the Hermeneutics of Value Transformation

(Examining how values are reinterpreted and transformed in response to global political shifts, war, and contemporary existential crises.)

- Prof. Wilbert Gobbo – *HERMENEUTICA QUO VADIS: CRISIS OF VALUES IN THE CONTEMPORARY AGE* (Core theoretical question) (University of KwaZulu-Natal) **11.40 to 12.00**
- Dr. Edward Murambwa – *Targeted Sanctions and the Reinterpretation of Universal Values in Global Politics* (Global politics & values) (University of Cambridge, UK) **12.00 to 12.20**
- Dr. Yuliia Vintoniv – *Hermeneutic Transformations of Values in Wartime Ukraine: Godforsakenness and the Search for Meaning* (War & meaning-making) (**Ukrainian Catholic University**) **12.20 to 12.40 ONLINE**
- **QUESTION AND ANSWER 12.40 TO 1.00 pm**

- **LUNCH 1 pm to 2 pm**
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Group 3 (Nos. 7–9)

Digital Age, AI, and the Crisis of Personhood

(Addressing how artificial intelligence and digital media challenge, reshape, and threaten human identity, personhood, and ethical sensibilities.)

- Lundall, Keagon Paul and Mbarga, Emmanuel – *Artificial Intelligence and the Crisis of Homo Sapiens: Hermeneutics of (Sociocentric) Personhood in the Digital Age* (AI & personhood)(St Joseph's Theological Institute) **2.00 pm to 2.20 pm**
- Dr Isaac Mutelo – *Artificial Intelligence as a Hermeneutical Limit-Case: Rethinking Personhood in African Philosophical Anthropology* (AI & African thought) (Arrupe Jesuit University) **2.20 pm to 2.40 pm**
- Drs. Zandile Faith Mpofu, Slindile Ngcece, Bongolethu Diko, Nomathemba Mthethwa, Nondumiso Ayanda Ndlovu – *From Empathy to Entertainment: The Consumption of Violence in the Digital Age* (Digital media & ethics) (University of South Africa) **2.40 pm to 3 pm**

QUESTION AND ANSWER 3 pm to 3.30 pm

Tuesday 7 July

Moderators: Fr. Mberikwazvo Ian Chitambo

Ms. Ncamisile Jiyane

Group 4 (Nos. 10–12)

Hermeneutics in Pedagogy and Sustainable Wisdom

(Applying hermeneutical approaches to education, teaching, and the integration of ancient wisdom with sustainable technology.)

- Fr. Sdongiseni Msomi – *Hermeneutic Change in Priestly Formation in South Africa: A Philosophical Analysis* (Applying theory to education) — **Room A (St John Vianney Seminary) 8.30 to 8.50 am**
 - Olga Yurkivska – *Richard Rorty's hermeneutic pragmatism: experience of teaching Ethics & Literature at SJTI* (Applied pedagogical theory) — **Room A (St Joseph's Theological Institute) 8.50 to 9.10 am**
 - Paseka Masiu and Dr. Isaiah Munyiswa – *Ethical Hermeneutics and in the African Context: The importance of Conversation* (African conversational ethics) — (National University of Lesotho)**Room A 9.10 am to 9.30 am**
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Group 5 (Nos. 13–15)

African Identity, Justice, and Conversational Ethics

(Exploring African cultural identity, restorative justice through indigenous art, and the ethics of conversation in African philosophical traditions.)

- Drs Nonhle Tracey Sibisi, Sakhiseni Yende – *Quest for Peace and Justice in South African Correctional Centres through Indigenous Art Forms: A Music Perspective* (Indigenous art & justice) — **Room B (University of South Africa) 8.30 to 8.50 am ONLINE**
 - Dr Geetesh Nirban – *Reclaiming Human Worth: A Hermeneutical Re-reading of Values in the Bhagavadgītā* (Hindu scripture) (University of Delhi) **Room B 8.50 to 9.10 am ONLINE**
 - Adie Gab-Mario Ugbong – *Naming, Identity, and Well-being: A Hermeneutic-Psychological Analysis of Changing Naming Practices in African Cultures* (Identity & culture) — **Room B (Tangaza University, Kenya) 9.10 am to 9.30 am ONLINE**
 - **QUESTION AND ANSWER 9.30 to 10 am**
 - **TEA BREAK 10 am to 10.30 am**
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Group 6 (Nos. 16–18)

Environmental Hermeneutics and Ecological Justice

(Applying hermeneutical and theological frameworks to environmental ethics, justice, and the sacredness of nature in African contexts.)

- Fr. Emmanuel Ichidi – *The Ethics of Survival: Rethinking Environmental Justice and Charcoal Use in Energy-Poor African Societies* (Environmental justice) — **Room A (St Anthony's Major Seminary, a constituent college of the Catholic University of Malawi) 10.30 am to 10.50 am**
 - Dr Patricia Bongzi Zengele and Dr Mfazo Clifford Madondo – *Environmental hermeneutics of revaluation of nature: A critical theological reflection on 'Laudato Si'* (Ecological theology) — **Room A (University of KwaZulu-Natal) 10.50 am to 11.10 am**
 - Fr. Simon Mizingu Mbala and Prof. Beatrice Okyere-Manu – *The Commodification of the Sacred: ...Ethnomedicine Trade on the Environment in Kinshasa* (Environmental ethics & trade) — **Room A (St Joseph's Theological Institute and University of KwaZulu-Natal) 11.10 am to 11.30 am**
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Group 7 (Nos. 19–21)

Power, Patriarchy, and Values in Transition

(Examining how values are contested and reshaped around gender-based violence, globalization, and regional identity.)

- Drs. Zandile Faith Mpofu, Nondumiso Ayanda Ndlovu, Bongoletu Diko – *Patriarchy, Power, and the Crisis of Values: Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Contemporary South Africa* (Gender-based violence) — **Room B (University of South Africa) 10.30 am to 10.50 am ONLINE**
- Dr. Amit Mishra – *Challenges in values of Indian families in the age of globalization* (Family & globalization) — **Room B (Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi) 10.50 am to 11.10 am ONLINE**
- Prof. Sokolov Sergei – *The Eurasian aspect of the basic values of Russian society* (Regional values & identity) — **Room B [Online] (East Siberia State University of Technology and Management) 11.10 am to 11.30 am ONLINE**

- **QUESTION AND ANSWER 11.30 to 12.00**

LUNCH 12 pm to 1 pm

Group 8 (Nos. 22–24)

Critical Hermeneutics, Decoloniality, and Social Prejudice

(Engaging with meta-theoretical critiques of hermeneutics, decolonial thought, and contemporary social issues like xenophobia.)

- Abraham Tobi – *The Epistemic Harms of Botched Apologies for Past Wrongs* **Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University, Canada Room A 1 pm to 1.20 pm**
- **Dr. Martha Catherine Beck – Integrating Nature and Culture, Ancient Wisdom and Sustainable Technology (Sustainability & ancient wisdom) — Room A (Professor Emerita of Philosophy, Lyon College, USA) 1.20 pm to 1.40 pm ONLINE**
- Fr Khoza – *The Return of the Repressed: A Fanonian Hermeneutic of the 2026 “Xenophobic” Intimidation of Undocumented Migrants in South Africa* (St John Vianney Seminary) **Room A (St John Vianney Seminary) 1.40 pm to 2.10 pm**

QUESTION AND ANSWER 2.10 pm to 2.30 pm

2:30 PM Closing:

RVP: Bill Barbieri

HOD Philosophy Br. Tendai Gandanzara CMM

Closing Prayer

Links: First Day

oin Zoom Meeting from 8:15 am SAST (Washington 2:15 GMT-4) (New Delhi 11:45 GMT+5:30) (Kyiv 9:15am GMT +3)

<https://zoom.us/j/4162897270?pwd=QWF0Eb77Owt3SPbNZer7V6cHASbPdE.1&omn=93956611470>

Meeting ID: 416 289 7270

Passcode: CEDARA102

Day Two:

Room A as above

Room B:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/312163825832951?p=lmgx6FvYMinqpEx67O>

Meeting ID: 312 163 825 832 951

Passcode: R49M9xT6