

# Dr. Sarojini Nadar

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## \*PERSONAL DETAILS

- *Age:* 33 years old. Born 06/02/1976, Durban, South Africa
- *Nationality:* South African
- *Marital Status:* Married to Poovan Nadar(chemical engineer), 03/09/1994
- *Children:* Nathan Nadar Born 13/03/1998; Ryan Nadar Born: 21/07/2004

## \*EDUCATION

- 2003                      PhD from the University of Natal  
Title of Thesis: **“Power, Ideology And Interpretation/s: Womanist And Literary Perspectives On the book of Esther As Resources For Gender-Social Transformation.”**  
  
Supervisor: Prof. Gerald O. West
- 2000                      MA degree from the University of Cape Town  
Title of Thesis: **“Reading Ruth: Towards a Postmodernist, Literary and Womanist Analysis.”**  
  
Supervisors: Prof. Charles A. Wanamaker and Dr. Azila Talit Reizenberger
- 1997                      B Soc Sci. Honours in Biblical Studies from the University of Cape Town (UCT)

1996 BA degree with majors in English and Religious Studies from UCT

1993 Matric at Effingham Secondary, Durban

Obtained University Exemption

**\*WORK HISTORY**

*Currently* **Senior Lecturer in and Director of: Gender and Religion Programme , School of Religion and Theology, University of KwaZulu-Natal**

Teaching Courses 2009:

- African Women's Theologies (Honours/Masters)
- Biblical Hermeneutics: Women and Gender (Honours/Masters)
- Issues of Masculinity and Gender (Honours/Masters)
- Political and Economic Ethics: Theological Perspectives (3rd year – Teaching Component: Feminist Theologies)
- Biblical Theology (3<sup>rd</sup> year - Teaching Component: Gender, Bible and HIV&AIDS)
- Critical Tools for Biblical Study (2<sup>nd</sup> year – Teaching Component: Literary and Contextual Perspectives on the Old Testament)

2004 -2006 **University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg), School of Philosophy and Ethics**

*Position* **Lecturer in Ethics Studies**

Teaching Courses:

- Applied Global Ethics (ES101 - 1st year) – Hinduism; Gender, Religion and Ethics
- The Ethics of Power (ES 201 – 2nd year) – Issues in Gender and Ethics.
- Applied Issues in Religion and Ethics (REL316—3rd year)

*Position* **Tutor in the Unilever Centre of Ethics**

Responsibilities:

- Facilitate tutorials
- Assess students' performance through evaluation of assignments and written examinations.

2002 -2005 **University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg), School of**

## ***Religion and Theology***

*Position*

### ***Full-Time International Co-ordinator of International Network in Advanced Theological Education (INATE)***

The Network comprises eight Institutions, namely: Escola Superior de Teologia, Sao Leopoldo, Brazil; School of Theology, University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa; Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Centre, Chennai, India; Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, China; Evangelical-Lutheran Theological University, Budapest, Hungary; Norway; Universidad Biblical Latinoamerica, San Jose, Costa Rica and Emmanuel College, Toronto, Canada.

The main responsibility in this position was to promote the activities of the network by facilitating:

- Exchange of staff and students
- Curriculum development
- Research and publication
- Establishment of computer links and exchange information
- Meeting with donors, managing a budget of approximately R1million a year and preparing funding proposals and financial reports
- Organising and coordinating international consultative forums.

*Position*

### ***Part-Time Lecturer in Biblical Studies (Old Testament)***

Teaching Courses:

- Biblical Studies (BS 120 - 1st year) – An Introduction to The Old Testament
- Biblical Studies (BS 310 - 3rd year) – Gender, Bible and HIV&AIDS.
- Biblical Studies (Honours and Masters) - Feminist and Womanist Hermeneutics
- Taught the hermeneutics component of a course on Feminist Theology (2nd and 3rd year levels) at the St Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara.

Supervision Of Theses And Dissertations:

**Student names marked with an \* have graduated already and students marked**

with \*\* are to complete in 2009

**Co-supervision**

Level	Name of Student	Co-Supervisor	Area of specialisation
PhD	Smadz Matsepe	Gerald West	Gender, Violence and Bible
PhD	Rose Materu	Isabel Phiri	Gender, HIV/AIDS and Church
PhD	Lydia Mwaniki**	Jonathan Draper	Postcolonial Feminist Hermeneutics
PhD	Rosinah Gabaitse	Jonathan Draper	Pentecostal Feminist Hermeneutics

**Primary Supervision**

Level	Name of Student	Area of Specialisation
PhD	Eliza Getman	Ordination of women in the Anglican Church in SA
PhD	Trudy Rose	Race Relations between Women in South African Churches
PhD	Rubeena Partab	Masculinities, Violence and Culture
PhD	Jairos Hlatwayo	Masculinities, HIV and Theology
Masters	Lupyani Bodson**	Ordination of Women in the Evangelical Church in Zambia
Masters	Nokokure Gaomas*	Patriarchy and marriage in the Lutheran Church in Namibia
Masters	Jessica Richard**	Indian Feminist Christology
Masters	Reuben Matloadi	African Feminist Christology
Masters	Virginia Francis*	Social Responsibility and the Pentecostal/Charismatic Church
Masters	Jennifer Sistig**	Same-Sex Marriage and the Church

2000-2001 **University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg), School of Theology**

Position **Part-time Lecturer and Graduate Assistant**

Responsibilities:

- Facilitate seminars and lectures on feminist and womanist theology, and African women's perspectives on Biblical texts
- Assess students' performance through evaluation of assignments and written examinations.

Courses Taught:

- Biblical Studies (BS 120 - 1st year) – An Introduction to The Old Testament
- Biblical Studies (BS 310 - 3rd year) – African Perspectives on Biblical texts: Feminist and Womanist Perspectives (Ruth and Esther)

1999 **University of Cape Town, Faculty of Humanities**

Position **Tutor**

Responsibilities:

- Facilitate seminars and tutorials on general texts relating to the humanities.
- Assess students' performance through evaluation of assignments and written examinations.
- Be involved in planning meetings with management strategizing the contents of the course.

***University of Cape Town, Department of Religious Studies***

*Position*                    ***Head Tutor***

Responsibilities:

- Act as consultant to students and staff
- Assess students' performance through evaluation of assignments and written examinations

1997-1998                    ***University of Cape Town, Department of Religious Studies***

*Position*                    ***Tutor***

Courses tutored:

- African Traditional Religion
- Islam
- Christianity
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Taoism
- Religion and Politics

1997                            ***University of Cape Town, Faculty of Social Science***

*Position*                    ***Tutor (DOS 001W)***

*(DOS001W was a pilot course and first of its kind at UCT, initiated by the faculty of Social Science for first year students. It was a compulsory whole year course aimed at bridging the gap between School and University life).*

Responsibilities:

- Facilitating workshops on both academic and social issues

1996

**University of Cape Town, Research and Development Programme**

Position

**Research Assistant to Dr. E. E. I Moosa**

Responsibilities:

- Conduct library research
- Help establish the Centre for Contemporary Islam
- Read, summarise and categorise various topics of literature (e.g., women in Islam) and to implement this in a data base system called NOTABENE

**\*SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

- Profiled in the Mail and Guardian's "The Book of South African Women" 2008, with the following citation:

Dr Sarojini Nadar is a senior lecturer in, and the director of, the gender, religion and ethics programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. In 2003 she obtained her PhD from the University of Natal in the areas of gender and biblical studies. Her work experience includes managing an international network of eight tertiary institutions. She sits on the editorial board of the international Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion and is also the co-editor of the Journal of Constructive Theology -- Gender and Religion in Africa. Her numerous publications include 15 accredited journal articles in the areas of gender, religion, HIV/AIDS and culture. The book *African Women Religion and Health*, edited with Isabel Phiri, received an award from the Catholic Press Association in the gender category. She is a sought-after speaker and has presented more than 22 papers internationally, from Brazil to Hong Kong. Nadar is passionate about issues of social transformation; hence as an activist-scholar, she facilitates workshops in local communities and for corporate institutions as well.

- Received an award by The Catholic Press Association, in the category of "Gender" for the book *African Women, Religion, and Health, Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye* edited by Isabel Phiri and Sarojini Nadar, in New York, 2007

- Awarded the University of KwaZulu-Natal 2006 Annual Book Prize for Best Edited Book. Details of book: *African Women, Religion, and Health Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye* edited by Isabel Phiri and Sarojini Nadar

- Awarded Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTSSA)

scholarship (2003)

➤Awarded University Research Funds from the University of Natal, for a Research Project entitled: Bible Studies for Gender Social Transformation (2002)

➤Awarded the “Status of Women in the Profession” Scholarship by the Society of Biblical Literature to present a paper at their annual meeting in Denver, Colorado (2001)

➤Awarded National Research Foundation Scholarship towards Research for a PhD (2001)

➤Awarded ESATI (Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions) Scholarship towards Research for a PhD (2000)

➤Awarded Graduate Assistantship from the University of Natal towards tuition fees for a PhD (2000-2001)

➤Awarded University Scholarships Committee award (University of Cape Town) for second year of a Master’s Degree studies (1999)

➤Awarded CHURCH OF CANADA Scholarship for second year of a Master’s degree (1999)

➤Awarded CENTRE FOR SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT (CSD) Scholarship for first year of a Masters degree (1998)

➤Awarded CENTRE FOR SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT (CSD) Scholarship for a BA Honours degree (1997)

➤Obtained two Class Medals for BA degree (UCT - 1996)

➤Awarded Bursary to study at University of Natal (Durban) for first year of BA degree (1994)

#### \*PUBLICATIONS – CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

*Forthcoming*

Nadar, Sarojini. “It’s part of my Culture!’ (and religion) – Feminist Cultural Hermeneutics in the light of the Jacob Zuma Rape Trial” in *Private transgressions, Public Tirades, National Politics: The Jacob Zuma Rape Trial* edited by Cheryl Potgieter, Pumla Dineo Gqola, Vasu Reddy. Pretoria: HSRC Press

Nadar, Sarojini. “Beyond the ‘ordinary reader’ and the ‘invisible intellectual’: Shifting Contextual Bible Study from Liberation Discourse to Liberation Pedagogy”. In *The Future of the Biblical Past: A Global Survey of the Field*. Editors: Fernando Segovia and Roland Boer. Forthcoming November 2009.

Nadar, Sarojini. “Circles of Abundant Life: A Tribute to Denise Ackermann”, in *Ragbag Theologies: Essays in Honour of Denise M*

*Ackermann – A Feminist Theologian of Praxis*. Editors: Miranda Pillay, Sarojini Nadar and Clint le Bruyns, Forthcoming November 2009

Nadar, Sarojini. "A 'Her-story' of Feminist Theologies in Africa" In *A Companion to African Religions*. Edited by Elias K. Bongmba. Forthcoming 2010.

2006 Nadar, Sarojini and Leonard Gary. "Indentured Theology: White Souls/Black Skins? Decolonizing Pentecostals within the Indian Diaspora," in *Spirits of Globalisation: The Growth of Pentecostalism And Spiritualities in a Global Age* [Ed.] Sturla J. Stalsett, London: SCM Canterbury Press.

Nadar, Sarojini. "Texts of Terror—The Conspiracy of Rape in the Bible, Church and Society: The Case of Esther 2:1-18," In *African Women, Religion and Health: Essays in Honor of Mercy Amba Ewudziwa Oduyoye*, (Eds.) Phiri, I A and S. Nadar. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.

2005 Nadar, Sarojini. "On Being Church: African Women's Voices and Visions," In *On being Church: African Women's Voices and Visions*, (Eds.) Phiri, I A and S. Nadar. Geneva: World Council of Churches.

2004 Nadar, Sarojini. "Barak God and Die! Women, HIV, and a Theology of Suffering," In *Grant Me Justice! HIV/AIDS and Gender Readings of the Bible*, (Eds.) Dube, M. W. and M. Kanyoro. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Publications and Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications.

2002 Nadar, Sarojini. "Journeying in Faith: The Stories of Two Ordained Indian Women in the Anglican and Full Gospel Churches in South Africa." In *Her-stories, Hidden Histories of Women of Faith in Africa*, (Eds.) Phiri. I. A. D. B. Govinden and S. Nadar. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications.

2001 Nadar, Sarojini. "A South African Indian Womanist Reading of the Character of Ruth" In *Other Ways of Reading – African Women and the Bible*, (ed.) Musa W. Dube. Society of Biblical Literature: Atlanta and WCC Publications: Geneva.

2000 Nadar, Sarojini. "Emerging From Muddy Waters." In *Reclaiming our Footprints - South African Women Reflect on Context, Identity and Spirituality*, (eds.) Ackermann D, E. Getman, H. Kotze and J. Tobler. EFSA: Stellenbosch.

**\*PUBLICATIONS – REFEREED JOURNALS**

- Forthcoming* Nadar, Sarojini. "Palatable Patriarchy and Violence Against Wo/men in South Africa - Angus Buchan's Mighty Men's Conference as a Case Study of Masculinism." *Scriptura* 102 (2009:3)
- Nadar, Sarojini. "Kicking People Into Heaven?' – Using the Bible in and For Mission in CWM." *Missionalia* 2009.
- Phiri, Isabel and Nadar, Sarojini. "Going Through the Fire with Eyes Wide Open": African Women's Perspectives on Indigenous Knowledge, Patriarchy and Sexuality, *Journal for the Study of Religion* 22.2.2009.
- 2009* Nadar, Sarojini. "Changing the World: The Task of Feminist Biblical Scholars" in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 25.2 (2009): 137-143
- Nadar, Sarojini. "The Bible Says! Feminism, Hermeneutics and Neo-Pentecostal Challenges" in *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa, No. 134: July 2009*
- Nadar, Sarojini. "Sacred Stories as Theological Pedagogy. *Journal for Constructive Theology*, 14/1 and 15/2: 9-24
- Nadar, Sarojini. "The Feminist Teacher: Pedagogy Of The Oppressed Woman? *Journal for Constructive Theology*, 14/1 and 15/2: 37-56
- 2007* Nadar, Sarojini. "Contextual Theological Education in Africa and the Challenge of Globalization" in *Ecumenical Review* Vol. 59, no.2-3, April/July
- Nadar, Sarojini. "What about the Margins? Biblical Scholarship Fifteen Years after Voices From the Margin" In *Scriptura* 2007:2, pgs. 293-297.
- 2006* Phiri, Isabel and Nadar, Sarojini "What's in a Name? Forging a Theoretical Framework for African Women's Theologies" in *Journal for Constructive Theology*, 12/2: 5-23.
- Nadar, Sarojini. "'Hermeneutics of Transformation?'" A Critical Exploration of the Model of Social Engagement Between Biblical Scholars and Faith Communities" in *Scriptura* 93. 339-351.
- 2005* Nadar, Sarojini. "Searching the Dungeons Beneath our Religious Discourses: The Case of Violence Against Women and the 'Unholy Trinity.'" In *Agenda: Empowering Women for Gender Equity*, no. 66, 2005.
- 2005* Nadar, Sarojini. "Paradigm Shifts in Mission: From an Ethic of

Domination to an Ethic of Justice and Love: The Case of 1 Tim 2: 8-15." In *Missionalia*, vol. 33/2, August 2005.

- 2004 Nadar, Sarojini. "On Being the Pentecostal Church: Pentecostal Women's Voices and Visions." In *The Ecumenical Review*, vol. 56/3, July 2004.
- 2004 Maluleke, T. S and Nadar, S. "Alien Fraudsters in the White Academy: Agency in Gendered Colour." *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, 120, November.
- 2004 Nadar, Sarojini. "Texts Of Terror" Disguised As The "Word Of God": The Case Of Esther 2:1-18 And The Conspiracy Of Rape In The Bible." In *The Journal of Constructive Theology*, vol. 10/2 December 2004.
- 2003 Nadar, Sarojini. "Re-reading Job in the Midst of Suffering in the HIV/AIDS Era: How Not to Talk of God." *Old Testament Essays*, 16/2.
- 2002 Nadar, Sarojini. "Gender, Power, Sexuality and Suffering Bodies: Re-reading the Characters of Esther and Vashti for Social Transformation." *Old Testament Essays*, 15/1.
- Maluleke, T. S and Nadar, S. "Breaking the Covenant of Violence Against Women." *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, 114, November.
- 2001 "Nadar, Sarojini. Living in Two Worlds: The Changing Role of South African Indian Women in the Full Gospel Church." *Journal for the Study of Religion*, 14/2.
- 2000 "Nadar, Sarojini. Subverting Gender and Ethnic Assumptions in Biblical Narrative: Exploring the Narrative Voice of Ruth." *Journal for Constructive Theology*, 6/2: 67-84.

**\*PUBLICATIONS – BOOK REVIEWS**

- 2008 Nadar, Sarojini. "Review Article: Engaging Biblical Authority." In *Journal of Biblical Interpretation*, 2008, vol. 1.
- 2003 Nadar, Sarojini. "Review Article – The Bible in Africa: Transactions, Trajectories and Trends." In *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* 112, March

**\*PUBLICATIONS – EDITED BOOKS AND REFEREED JOURNALS**

- Forthcoming* Editing with Miranda Pillay and Clint le Bruyns, the book *Ragbag*

*Theologies: Essays in Honour of Denise M Ackermann – A Feminist Theologian of Praxis*, Forthcoming November 2009

Editing with Chandran Paul Martin. *Festschrift for Aruna Gnanadason*. Title yet to be decided. Forthcoming 2010.

2009 Edited, with Prof. Isabel Phiri a special double volume issue of the *Journal of Constructive Theology* 14.2 and 15.1. Title: “Feminist Theological Pedagogy in Africa.”

2006 Edited, with Prof. Isabel Phiri, the book, *African Women, Religion and Health: Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye*, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Publications.

Edited, with Prof. Isabel Phiri, the December 2006 issue of *Journal of Constructive Theology* 12/2.

2005 Edited, with Prof. Isabel Phiri, the book, *On Being Church: African Women’s Voices and Visions*. World Council of Churches: Switzerland.

Edited, with Prof. Jonathan Draper, the *Journal of Constructive Theology: Gender, Religion and Theology in Africa*. Special Issue: “Theological Responses to Illness, Stigma and Discrimination: Forging Contextual Theologies in an Era of HIV/AIDS.” 11/2: 2005

2004 Edited, with Prof. Tinyiko S. Maluleke, the *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, “Special Issue: The Agency of the Oppressed Discourse: Consciousness, Liberation and Survival in Theological Perspective.” 120, 2004.

Edited, with Prof. Isabel Phiri the *Journal of Constructive Theology*. Special Issue: “On Being Church: Women’s Voices and Visions.” 10, 1: 2004

Edited, with Prof. Isabel Phiri the *Journal of Constructive Theology*. Special Issue: “Women and Health: Essays in Honour of Mercy Amba Oduyoye.” 10, 2: 2004.

2002 Edited with Prof. Tinyiko S. Maluleke the *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, “Special Issue: Overcoming Violence Against Women and Children.” 114, 2002.

Co-edited together with Prof. Isabel Apawo Phiri and Dr. Devarakashanam Betty Govinden, the book: *Her-Stories: Hidden Histories of Women of Faith in Africa*, Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications

**\*PUBLICATIONS – MAGAZINES AND OTHER CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS**

- 2008 Nadar, Sarojini. "When did the rock become Weak?" Comment and Analysis in the *Mail and Guardian*, 04 August 2008.
- 2003 Nadar, Sarojini. "Skal vi bare ta imot det gode fra Gud." In *Tid for Naervaer en fastevandring*. Kirkens Nodhjelp.
- 2000 "Nadar, Sarojini. To Hope or not to Hope - Reflections on the Indian Context by a South African Indian woman." In *Jyoti Magazine*: Gurukul Lutheran Theological and Research Institute.

**\*THESES AND DISSERTATIONS**

- 2003 Nadar, Sarojini. "Power, Ideology and Interpretation/s: Womanist and Literary Perspectives on the Book of Esther as Resources for Gender-Social Transformation." University of Natal: PhD Thesis.
- 2000 Nadar, Sarojini. "Reading Ruth: Towards a Postmodernist, Literary and Womanist Analysis." University of Cape Town: MA Thesis.

**\*CONFERENCE PAPERS AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

- 2009 **Chennai, India**

Invited as a guest lecturer to Gurukul Lutheran Theological and Research Institute in January 2009. Unfortunately I had to leave India early due to a family crisis, but did fulfil some preaching obligations while I was there.

***Belem, Brazil***

Presented a response paper to a plenary panel session on Liberation and Embodiment at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum on Theology and Liberation in Belem, Brazil.

***Stellenbosch, South Africa***

Plenary speaker at a conference titled “The Evil of Patriarchy in Church, Society and Politics” organised by Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM) . The topic of my paper was “Who’s Afraid of the Mighty Men’s Conference: Palatable Patriarchy and Violence Against Wo/Men.”

***Stellenbosch, South Africa***

Presented 3 papers at the Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the fields of Religion and Theology. Titles of papers: Paper 1: “Who’s Afraid of the Bible-Believing Christian: Reading the Bible as Feminist in Relation to Neo-Pentecostal Challenges.”; Paper 2: “Rape, Lobola, Polygamy and Compensation: Inter-Religious Resources for Assisting in Just Gender Relations in the Context of HIV&AIDS.”; Paper 3: “Beyond the Ordinary Reader and the Invisible Intellectual : Pushing the Boundaries of Contextual Bible Study Discourses.”

2008

***Hong Kong, China***

Plenary speaker at a Lutheran World Federation Consultation held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Title of paper: “Theologically engaging our contexts in creative and critical ways”

***Tainan, Taiwan***

Plenary speaker at a Council for World Mission Workshop on reading the bible in context. Title of paper: “Doing Contextual Bible Studies: An Overview”

***Soweto, South Africa***

Plenary speaker at a Lutheran World Federation Consultation held at

the Central Lutheran Diocesan Centre in Soweto, South Africa. Title of paper: “Who’s Afraid of the Bible-Believing Christian? Reading the Bible in Relation to Neo-Pentecostal Challenges”

***Rattvik, Sweden***

Plenary Speaker at the Church of Sweden “International Bible Days” to facilitate bible studies related to sexual violence, and to provide practical training on such facilitation

***Geneva, Switzerland***

Facilitated contextual bible studies on Women in Mission at a preparatory meeting for the Edinburgh 2010 Mission Conference.

***Maputo, Mozambique***

Commissioned as a consultant by the Ecumenical HIV&AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA, WCC) to train participants in Contextual Bible Study methodology at the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) General Assembly.

***Blantyre, Malawi***

Guest Lecturer at the Department of Theology, University of Malawi. Participated in a consultation of the Broken Women, Healing Traditions Research Group.

2007

***Geneva, Switzerland***

Invited to train an ecumenical group of 20 people from around the world on conducting bible studies related to sexual violence. The seminar was an intensive one over 6 days at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva.

***Oslo, Norway***

Invited to be a keynote speaker at “The Oslo Celebrations” academic seminar “Religion, Environment & Education: challenges for

development”, in the Old Festival Hall (Gamle Festsalen), in the centre of Oslo. The title of my key-note lecture was “*What do (religious) women want? Isn't democracy enough? Contemporary Challenges to Religion, Culture and Education in South Africa.*”

The celebrations commemorated a decade of fruitful scientific cooperation between South Africa and was hosted by the University of Oslo. Other key-note speakers during the time of the celebrations included, Prof. Ahmed Bawa (DVC for Research, UKZN), Ms. Naledi Pandor (minister of Education in SA) and Prof. Jerry Coovadia (School of Medicine, UKZN)

Also presented two papers at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo. Titles of papers: “*Feminist Theology: Sexual Abuse and Violence against Women*” and “*Texts of Terror: de-legitimising patriarchal readings in the Old Testament*”

### **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Presented a paper at a writer’s workshop for a book commissioned by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) on the Jacob Zuma Rape Trial. Title of paper: “*It’s part of my Culture!’ (and religion) – Feminist Cultural Hermeneutics in the light of the Jacob Zuma Rape Trial*”

2006

### **Washington D.C., USA American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting**

Invited to speak on two panels at the American Academy of Religion and two panels at the Society of Biblical Literature. These were the details of the papers presented at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting:

Presented a paper at a plenary session of the Special topics Forum. The theme was “Women Speaking to Religion and Leadership: Honoring the Work of Mercy Oduyoye” The title of my paper was ““Malaka-le Theologies - A tribute to the work of Mercy Oduyoye”

Presented a paper at the Women and religion Section entitled: “Searching the Dungeons Beneath Our Religious Discourses: The Case of Violence Against Women and The ‘Unholy Trinity”

### **Washington D.C., USA Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting**

Presented a paper entitled "Ain't I a Woman?" Differences, Similarities, and Collaboration between African Women's and Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics at the African-American Biblical hermeneutics Section.

Presented a paper on the panel “Still at the Margins: Biblical scholarship fifteen years after Voices from the Margin” entitled “Talking Snakes and the Challenge of Marginal Hermeneutics”

**Strasbourg, France**

Invited by the Ecumenical Research Institute, as a resource person for a seminar with the theme "The Holy Spirit and the Church"

**Porto Alegre, Brazil**

Invited as a speaker for the panel "Theological Education in Africa and the Middle East section" of the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Presented a paper entitled "Theological Education in Africa and the Challenge of Globalisation." Also participated in the section on "Zero Tolerance on Violence Against Women and Children."

2005

**Budapest, Hungary**

Coordinated and organised a conference with the theme: "Contextual Theology in 'Gendered Colour': Doing Theology in the Global Village." Presented a paper on a key-note panel entitled: "Contextual Theology in 'Gendered Colour': International Theological Institutions Doing Theology in the Global Village"

**Philadelphia, United States of America**

Presented a paper entitled: "Hermeneutics of Transformation?" A Critical Exploration of the Model of Social Engagement Between Biblical Scholars and Faith Communities" at the annual Society for Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion meeting.

**Geneva, Switzerland**

Participated in a Consultation entitled "On Being Church: Women's Voices and Visions." Co-presented the Africa Report of this Consultation.

**Pretoria, South Africa**

Presented a paper at The Missiological Society of South Africa Conference entitled: "Paradigm Shifts in Mission From Domination to Justice And Love : The Case of 1 Timothy 2:8-15."

**Gaborone, Botswana**

Presented a 150-page module, written for Theological Education by Extension (TEE) students at a ten-day workshop in Botswana. The title of the module was "Studying the Hebrew Bible in HIV&AIDS Contexts." The work was commissioned by the World Council of Churches, and has been made available by the World Council of Churches, in PDF format on its website and as CD ROM's.

2004

Invited to be a speaker at a Conference in Oslo, Norway, organised by the Religion in a Globalized Age (RIGA) Network. The theme of the

Conference was “Spirits of Globalisation.” Co-authored a paper for the Conference entitled: “Indentured Theology: White Souls/Black Skins? De-Colonising Indian Pentecostalism in the Diaspora.”

### ***Durban, South Africa***

Invited to be a panellist at the *Tangencya, Create South Africa* workshop. The broad theme of the workshop was Thinta/Tangencya: The Intersections of Cultural Practice and Public culture. The title of my paper was “The Case of Violence Against Women and the Intersections of Cultural Practice and Public Culture.”

Invited to give an address at the launch of the “Spirituality and Religion” issue of the feminist journal *Agenda*. Title of paper: “Searching the Dungeons Beneath our Religious Discourses: The Case of Violence Against Women and the ‘Unholy Trinity.’”

2003

### ***Johannesburg, South Africa***

Presented a paper at a joint Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians and World Council of Churches consultation entitled: “On Being the Pentecostal Church: Pentecostal Women’s Voices and Visions.”

### ***Pietermaritzburg, South Africa***

Presented a paper at a Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians Workshop held in Pietermaritzburg entitled: “How do I approach the Bible from a Gender Perspective?”

Participated in a convention between churches and theologians in government organised by the School of Theology, University of Natal and the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council.

### ***Budapest, Hungary***

Presented a paper at a gender conference entitled: “Biblical Narrators and Biblical Interpreters Conspiring to Cover up the Rape of Women: The Case of Esther 2: 1-18 from a South African Indian Perspective.”

2002

### ***Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***

Presented a paper entitled: “Re-reading Job in the Midst of Suffering in the HIV/AIDS Era: How Not to Talk of God,” at a pan-African Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians Conference.

### ***Toronto, Canada***

Presented a paper entitled: “INATE (International Network in Advanced Theological Education) at the helm of doing Contextual Theology in the “Global Village” – Transforming our Theological

Institutions.”

**Geneva, Switzerland**

Participated in a Consultation organised by the Lutheran World Federation. The theme of the consultation was “Engendering Theological Education.”

2001

**Chennai, India**

Presented a paper at the Gurukul Lutheran Theological and Research Institute to doctoral students and faculty members, entitled: “Subverting Gender Assumptions in the book of Ruth: Deconstructing the Narrative Voice of Ruth.” Guest lecturer in January and February 2001.

**Accra, Ghana**

Presented a paper at a Pan-African Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians Conference held in Ghana. The title of the paper was: “Breaking the Covenant of Violence, Breaking the Covenant of Silence – Voices in the Wilderness”

**Hong Kong, China**

Presented a paper at the International Network in Advanced Theological Education (INATE) Consultation. Title of Paper: “Living in Two Worlds: Spiritualities of Indian Christian Women.”

**Denver, United States of America**

Presented a paper entitled: “Deconstructing the Characters of Vashti and Esther for Social Transformation” at the annual Society for Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion meeting.

**Potchefstroom, South Africa**

Presented a paper at the Old Testament Society of South Africa conference entitled: “Gender, Power, Sexuality and Suffering Bodies in the Book of Esther: Reading the Characters of Esther and Vashti for the Purpose of Social Transformation.”

2000

**Cape Town, South Africa**

Participated at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference. Presented a paper entitled: “A South African Indian Womanist Reading of Ruth.”

**Budapest, Hungary**

Participated in a Women’s Consultation organised by the International Network in Advanced Theological Education. Presented a paper entitled “Deconstructing the Book of Ruth for the Purpose of

Rediscovering Submerged Meanings.”

1999

***Cape Town, South Africa***

Presented a paper at the Inter-Action Postgraduate Conference in Franschoek. The Conference was interdisciplinary in nature. The title of my paper was: “Subverting Gender and Ethnicity in Biblical Narrative.”

Participated in a Workshop on Violence against Women organised by the Cape Town chapter of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.

1998

***Johannesburg, South Africa***

Participated on behalf of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, in a Conference that was organised by the National Initiative for Contextualising Theological Education (NICTE).

**\*PROFESSIONAL SERVICE – AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

2009

Invited to be a motivational speaker at various corporate and NGO events organised in commemoration of Women's Month. Made presentations at ABSA Private Bank, Pietermaritzburg, ABSA Private Bank, Umhlanga; Tiger Brands, Durban; South African Democratic Teacher's Union, Durban; Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA).

Motivational Speaker at a Youth Rally in my home-town Phoenix. Delivered a presentation called: "Rising from the Ashes, Emerging From Muddy Waters: What Good Can Come From Phoenix?"

Invited to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony of the College of Transfiguration in Grahamstown. Topic: "Education in the Service of Liberation."

Invited to provide commentary to the *Mail and Guardian* newspaper on pertinent gender issues – such as the ANC Youth League President, Julius Malema's derogatory statements on rape survivors.

Panellist on the news radio-station, SAFM on the topic of Religion and Politics ahead of the elections.

Conducted training session on Contextual Bible Studies for the Congregational Church of South African interns.

2008

Organised and facilitated a one-day workshop on gender violence, as part of the International 16 days of activism against gender violence programme. The project was entitled: "Theological Resources for Overcoming Gender Violence" and was conducted with over 150 students, church leaders and laypersons, Pietermaritzburg.

Contributed to the *Mail and Guardian* newspaper and the *Sunday Times* on significant gender issues. Also guest on ETV, SAFM, Radio 702 and Capricorn FM, as a scholar and activist in the field of gender studies, ranging in topics from the ordination of women bishops to patriarchy in religion and culture.

Coordinator of the Higher Degrees Committee of the School of Religion and Theology. Duties include: chairing meetings; reviewing applications; Sitting on the Faculty Higher Degrees Board; Reviewing proposals. There are over 200 postgraduate students in the School. Duty is current.

2007

Research manager of the "Broken Women – Healing Traditions" Research project funded by the Norwegian Research Council and the South African National Research Council. The project is collaboration between the Faculty of Theology at the University of Oslo and the School of Religion and Theology, University of Kwazulu-Natal. The main aim is to study the appropriation of indigenous social and religious knowledge, in order to assist just power relations between

women and men in the context of HIV/AIDS. By drawing on African and Christian inter-religious practises and social recognition of protective, ritual and untouchable space, the project aims to contribute toward building healing communities of active prevention and self-education. This remains current.

Editorial Board member of *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion Studies*. Duties include, evaluating proposals and articles for publication in the journal, as well as soliciting articles for special issues. This service remains current.

Organised and facilitated a one-day workshop on gender violence, as part of the International 16 days of activism against gender violence programme. The project was entitled: "Theological Resources for Overcoming Gender Violence" and was conducted with over 100 church leaders and laypersons, in Chatsworth, Durban. The workshop was funded by the World Council of Churches – Justice and Peace Desk.

2006

Board member of the Centre for Constructive Theology. Duty remains current.

Editorial Board member of *Semeia Studies*. Duties include, editing at least one *Semeia Studies* volume during the term, evaluating proposals for essay collections and monographs, and soliciting proposals for the series.

Organised and coordinated an International Consultation held in Budapest. The theme of the Consultation was: "Contextual Theology in 'Gendered Colour': Doing Theology in the Global Village"

Supervision and co-supervision of Masters and PhD students working in the fields of gender, religion and ethics

Conducted empowerment workshops on the topics of violence, HIV&AIDS, religion and culture for various NGO's and other organisations including PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness), Engen Reginery and various church group organisations.

2004-2005

***Pietermaritzburg, South Africa***

Chairperson of the Transformation Committee, School of Theology, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (currently serving as a member).

Served on the higher degrees committee of the School of Theology (currently serving as a member).

Internal examiner for a Masters thesis for the University of Natal.  
External examiner for University of Cape Town Religious Studies courses on gender.

Supervision and co-supervision of Masters and PhD students working in the fields of gender, religion and ethics

Reviewer for Journal of Theology in Southern Africa and Journal of Constructive Theology.

2003

***Pietermaritzburg, South Africa***

Organised and coordinated an International Consultation. The theme of the Consultation was: "Theological Responses to Illness, Stigma and Discrimination: Forging Contextual Theologies in an Era of HIV/AIDS."

Was instrumental in designing and in launching the Gender and Theology programme, together with Prof. Isabel Apawo Phiri, at the School of Theology, University of Natal.

Internal examiner for two Masters theses for the University of Natal.

Served on the Higher Degrees Committee of the School of Theology, University of Natal.

***Hamburg, Germany***

Held talks with EMW regarding possible funding of an International Consultation on Engendering Theological Education.

2002

***Geneva, Switzerland***

Held talks with representatives from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the World Council of Churches (WCC), and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), regarding possible funding of the INATE (International Network in Advanced Theological Education).

***Johannesburg, South Africa***

Co-organised the Commission on Biographies of Women of Faith in Africa workshop. Presented a paper entitled: "Journeying in Faith: The Stories of Two Ordained Indian Women in the Anglican and Full Gospel Churches in South Africa."

***Oslo, Norway***

Visited the Practical Theological Seminary and the School of Theology at the University of Oslo. Also held talks with Areopagos and Norwegian Church Aid regarding funding.

***Toronto, Canada***

Held talks with representatives from Emmanuel College, regarding their relationship with the INATE (International Network in Advanced Theological Education).

**Pietermaritzburg, South Africa**

Was instrumental in initiating and launching, together with Prof. Isabel Phiri, the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (Pietermaritzburg Chapter).

Co-ordinator of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (Pietermaritzburg Chapter).

Resource person for the ISB (Institute for the Study of the Bible) Gender Desk.

2001

**Chennai, India**

Spent two months at the Gurukul Lutheran Theological Research Institute, as a guest lecturer. Taught in their Masters programme in the Women Studies Department.

Was invited to preach and conduct Bible studies at different churches in India.

Worked as a tracker at an international conference organised by RICSA (Research Institute for Christianity in South Africa), entitled "Religion and Public Life." Duties involved tracking the sessions on Faith and Health, and Women and Abuse, and giving back a critical report which was published after the Conference

Worked at the Parliament of World Religions Conference. Chaired the Session on The Impact of Aids in South Africa, and the Government's Responses.

**\*SOCIETIES**

➤ Full member of Old Testament Society of South Africa. Member of the Executive (2003).

➤ Full member of Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and the American Academy of Religion (AAR).

➤ Full member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

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