



Desmond Tutu: Spirituality, Social Justice and Leadership Speaker Biographies - online Colloquium, 6 April 2022

Compiled by Mila Stricevic in consultation with Dr Roger Williamson (March 2022)

Listed in alphabetical order of surname

The Revd René August, Diocese of Cape Town

(Session 8: Gender and Sexuality)

René August is a self-supporting priest in the Cape Town Diocese. She has been a distant disciple of Archbishop Tutu for most of her life. When she worked in the city from 1993 to 1998, she used to attend the Friday morning eucharist at St George's Cathedral. In 2010, she was able to return to that Friday morning service, and as the Arch got older, she used to help with taking photos after the service and sitting with him at the coffee shop, where they were sometimes joined by visitors from out of town. She got to eavesdrop on conversations with hundreds of people from all walks of life and almost every country in the world, and has had the joy of being invited to share meals with the family in their homes and restaurants over a number of years.

Professor Michael Battle, Director, Desmond Tutu Center, General Theological Seminary, New York

(Session 6: Tutu the Political Priest)

Michael Battle is currently appointed as Herbert Thompson Professor of Church and Society and Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York. He lived in residence with Archbishop Tutu in 1993 and 1994 and was ordained a priest by Tutu in 1993. In 2010, Battle was given one of the highest Anglican Church distinctions as 'Six Preacher', by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams – a distinction given to only a few who demonstrate great dedication to the church that goes back to 16th century England and Thomas Cranmer. Battle has published eleven books, including his new release *Desmond Tutu: A Spiritual Biography of South Africa's Confessor*. He is affiliated to the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice at the at the University of the Western Cape. Battle and his wife, Raquel, were married by Tutu in Atlanta, Georgia and are parents to two daughters, Sage and Bliss, and a son, Zion – all of whom were baptized by Tutu as well.

The Revd Dr Ellen Clark-King, Dean of King's College London

(Welcome)

The Revd Dr Ellen Clark-King is the first female Dean in King's 193-year history. She has degrees in History (University of Cambridge) and Christian Spirituality (University of London) and specialised in Practical Theology and Feminist Spirituality for her PhD (Lancaster University) with a thesis on Feminist Theology interrogated by the voices of white working-class women. She trained for the Anglican priesthood in Oxford; following her ordination in 1992 and a curacy in the Diocese of Hereford she spent time in parish, cathedral and higher education settings in the UK, Canada, and the US, before starting as Dean of King's in December 2020.



Clive Conway, Chair Tutu Foundation (UK)

(Special Announcement)

Clive Conway is the chair of the Tutu Foundation UK. Before taking on this role he was a professional flautist, pioneering musician, impresario, and businessman. He established and lead Clive Conway Celebrity Productions, producing the 'An Audience With...' series, with shows nationwide across hundreds of venues.

Sakeenah Dramat (UWC)

(Session 4: A new generation reflect on Tutu's legacy)

Sakeenah Dramat is a doctoral student at the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, at the University of the Western Cape. Her research interests are religion, media, and politics of religion. Her background in Psychology has assisted her to produce knowledge that critically interrogates the discourses that maintain, sustain, perpetuate, as well as counter, representations of Islamophobia in South African media.

Joseph Duncan, Special Adviser, Youth Work and Project Leadership Tutu Foundation (UK)

(Session 7: Ubuntu in Action – an example from London)

Joseph Duncan is a youth worker, mediator and trainer with the charities Tutu Foundation UK and Youth Futures. He has worked with Ubuntu based projects and programmes in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa. In the UK he co-created the Conversations 4 Change program and the Ubuntu Roundtable Project. This project involves running roundtable workshops and activities across London with police officers and young people mistrustful of the police. Joseph has a passion for creating spaces with and between people where we can overcome our differences, explore our common humanity and help each other find our inner spark.

Professor Richard Harding, Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation, KCL

(Session 5: Spiritual Palliative Care and Archbishop Tutu)

Professor Harding is director of the centre for Global Health Palliative Care and a member of the King's Global Health Institute Faculty. His research areas include HIV/AIDS, heart failure, family caregivers, Sub-Saharan Africa, global health, and intervention development and testing. He has several collaborations with African Palliative care leaders that has brought change in outcome measure for research and clinical practise as well as has grown the evidence base. Dr Harding's research is now underpinning the new UK HIV clinical care standards.

Professor Irene Higginson, Professor of Palliative Care and Medicine, Scientific Director Cicely Saunders International, KCL

(Session 5: Spiritual Palliative Care and Archbishop Tutu)

Professor Higginson is currently professor of palliative care and policy, Vice Dean (research) of the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery, and palliative care and Director of the Cicely Saunders institute at King's College London. In 2019, she was named by the Web of Science as a highly cited researcher. The award recognises the world's most influential researchers who have produced multiple papers ranking in the top 1% in their field by citations. Professor Higginson is responsible for developing the palliative care outcome scale which is used across the world. She has pioneered the move for palliative care to extend beyond Cancer with extensive research into non-cancer conditions.



Professor Shitij Kapur, President & Principal, King's College London

(Welcome)

Professor Shitij Kapur is the President & Principal of King's College London. He is recognised worldwide for his own research on understanding psychosis and antipsychotic treatment – with over 300 papers, numerous presentations, and an H-index of over a hundred. Before becoming President and Principal of King's in 2021 he led NEWMEDS, an international consortium of scientists from 19 institutions from nine EU countries, which was one of the largest academic-industry research collaboration projects in its time. He has received many awards and honorary fellowships, including the honours of Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and a Fellow of King's College London, with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Copenhagen.

The Rt Revd Dr Vicentia Kgabe, Bishop of Lesotho, co-editor *Ecumenical Encounters with Desmond Mpilo Tutu*

(Session 8: Gender and Sexuality)

Bishop Vicentia Kgabe holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria, and is an ordained Anglican priest who is now Bishop of Lesotho – a position previously also held by Desmond Tutu. She was previously the Rector and Principal of the College of the Transfiguration NPC, Grahamstown, South Africa. The College of Transfiguration is an amalgamation of the previous three theological colleges that were in existence in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and was formed in 1993, when Archbishop Desmond Tutu was Metropolitan of the Church. Vicentia was the first Chairperson of the newly constituted College of Transfiguration Council (Board of Directors).

Rhine Tsobotsi Koloti (UWC)

(Session 4: A new generation reflect on Tutu's legacy)

Rhine Phillip Tsobotsi Koloti is a PhD student working in the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, at the University of the Western Cape. He also works as a research assistant and as a module facilitator. As an activist and an aspiring academic, he works with the United Society Partners in the Gospel and recently participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. He is also a member of the Association of Practical Theology. His most fond memory of Desmond Tutu goes back to 2008 when he was an altar boy holding the Archbishop's mitre during the Holy Eucharist Service at St Peter's Chains Anglican Church in Katlehong.

Graça Machel, former First Lady of South Africa and Deputy Chair of The Elders

(Session 9: Leadership and the Nobel Peace Prize)

Graça Machel is one of the world's leading advocates of women's and children's rights, having been previously a freedom fighter in Mozambique, and then the first Education Minister of independent Mozambique (1975-89). During her time as Minister, primary school enrolment increased from 40% to 90% (for boys) and 75% (for girls). She has been a UN Independent Expert on the impact of war on children since 1994, guiding an innovative and comprehensive plan for protection of children in conflict situations. She is also a member of the UN High-Level Panel on the post-2015 Development Agenda, and has been Deputy Chair of The Elders (established by President Mandela) since 2018.



Professor Sarojini Nadar, Desmond Tutu Research Chair, UWC

(Session 6: Tutu the Political Priest; Session 8: Gender and Sexuality (Chair); Session 10: Final reflections)

Professor Sarojini Nadar holds the Desmond Tutu South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Religion and Social Justice at the University of the Western Cape. Her research is broadly located at the intersections of gender studies and religion, including gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health rights, and critical pedagogy in higher education. As an activist-academic she is committed to authentic and intersectional socially engaged scholarship.

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin, Vice-President, Global Engagement, KCL

(Chair, morning sessions)

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin is Vice President (Global Engagement) and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's. Professor Olonisakin is a founding member of the African Leadership Centre, which aims to build the next generation of African scholars generating cutting edge knowledge for security and development in Africa. She was appointed in 2015 as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. 'Funmi was named an 'Extra-Ordinary Professor in the Department of Political Sciences' by the University of Pretoria in 2016, and in 2018 the Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) invited her to join the Council of the United Nations University.

The Most Revd Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town

(Session 1: Ethical and Spiritual Leadership)

Thabo Makgoba is the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town and was accepted for ordination training by Desmond Tutu when the latter was Bishop of Johannesburg. Makgoba was elected Bishop Suffragan of Grahamstown in 2002, Bishop of Grahamstown in 2004 and Archbishop in Cape Town in 2008. He holds a BSc degree, a BA (Honours) in Applied Psychology and an MEd in Educational Psychology from the University of the Witwatersrand, and a PhD from the University of Cape Town. He has honorary degrees from Canada, South Africa and the United States. He serves as Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape.

Professor Nyameko Pityana FKC, Professor emeritus of Law, University of South Africa; Desmond Tutu Intellectual Property (IP) Trust

(Session 2: Desmond Tutu's Ecumenical Mission and Governance)

Professor Pityana read Law in South Africa, at Fort Hare from 1967 where he came under the influence of Desmond Tutu. He qualified as a lawyer, but the unjust refusal of his admission as an Attorney in 1977, together with a spate of detentions without trial and banning orders made South Africa for him and his family precarious. In 1978, through the help of Desmond Tutu he came to King's College London where he graduated BD Hons in 1982. He trained for the Anglican ministry in Oxford, was ordained and worked in clergy roles in Milton Keynes and Birmingham. He worked for 5 years as Director of the World Council of Churches Programme to Combat Racism before returning to South Africa in 1992. There, he joined the academic staff of the University of Cape Town. In 1995 he was awarded a PhD in Religious Studies and was also admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, and in the same year was appointed inaugural Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission. From 2001 to 2010 he was Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa (UNISA). Pityana is Professor *emeritus* of Law at Unisa,



received the Presidential Honours as GCOB (Grand Counsellor of the Baobab) in 2006, and holds numerous academic and other awards and titles, including a Fellowship of King's College London and a Canon of the Anglican Church of South Africa (ACSA). He is also one of the Trustees of the Archbishop Tutu Intellectual Property Trust. Professor Pityana is widely published in Theology, Human Rights and Constitutional Law and in Public Ethics.

Professor Tyrone Pretorius, Rector & Vice-Chancellor, University of the Western Cape

(Welcome)

Professor Tyrone Brian Pretorius is the 7th Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape (UWC). He is a psychologist by training and has published extensively in respected national and international journals in the fields of career psychology, coping, stress, statistics, and research methodology. He has been honoured by the Psychology Society of South Africa for his contribution to the discipline. In addition, he has participated in the Yale-Southern Africa fellowship programme and has completed a strategic leadership programme at Oxford University. He holds two doctoral degrees, a DPhil from UWC and a PhD from the University of the Free State.

Koleka Putuma

(Closing poems)

Koleka Putuma is an acclaimed theatre practitioner, writer, and poet. Her debut collection of poems, *Collective Amnesia*, was published in April 2017, and was awarded the 2018 Glenna Luschei Prize for African Poetry; it was also named 2017 book of the year by the City Press and one of the best books of 2017 by The Sunday Times and Quartz Africa. *Collective Amnesia* has been translated in 8 languages. Putuma is a Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative finalist for theatre, a Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 Honoree, recipient of the Imbewu Trust Scribe Playwriting Award, Mbokodo Rising Light award, CASA playwriting award and the 2019 Distell.

Dr Megan Robertson, Senior Researcher, Desmond Tutu Centre

(Session 4: A new generation reflect on Tutu's legacy (Chair))

Dr Megan Robertson is a postdoctoral fellow under the auspices of the Desmond Tutu SARChI (The South African Research Chairs Initiative) Chair in Religion and Social Justice. She has worked for three institutions where the Tutu name has served as a compass for its work, including the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, the South African Faith and Family Institute and, now, is a lecturer in the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice. Her work with people and organisations that carry his name reflects the ways in which his ethics and politics have guided her approach and commitment to social justice work.

Professor Sa'diyya Shaikh, Associate Professor in the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Cape Town

(Opening: Spiritual Fragrances, Social Horizons: A Muslim Tribute to Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

Sa'diyya Shaikh is Associate Professor in the Department for the Study of Religions at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Her research is situated at the intersection of Islamic studies and Gender studies with a particular interest in Sufism and its implications for Islamic feminism and feminist theory. She has previously published on areas including Muslim women and gender violence, feminist approaches to hadith and Quranic



exegetics, and contraception and abortion in Islam. Shaikh has also completed an empirical project focussed on sexuality, marriage, and reproductive choices amongst South African Muslim women. Her book *Sufi narratives of intimacy: Ibn, Arabic, Gender, and Sexuality* was published in 2012.

Professor Simon Tanner, Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage, KCL

(Session 3: The Arch in the Archive: Collaborative Opportunities Arising from Archival Records)

Professor Simon Tanner is a digital humanities scholar with a wide-ranging interest in cross-disciplinary thinking and collaborative approaches that reflect a fascination with interactions between memory institution collections (libraries, museum, archives, media and publishing) and the digital domain. His [Balanced Value Impact Model \(BVI Model\)](#) is used for culture, heritage and digital impact assessment all over the world. His latest book is *Delivering Impact with Digital Resources*. Simon is a longstanding collaborator with South African colleagues with reference to the digital archival legacy of Archbishop Tutu. Simon is Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage in the Department of Digital Humanities and also Vice-Dean Humanities with operational leadership of the department of Theology & Religious Studies alongside History, Classics and Philosophy.

Professor Marion Thain, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, KCL

(Special Announcement)

Marion Thain is the executive Dean of the faculty of Arts and Humanities at King's College London. She began her career as a Junior Research Fellow at Cambridge University, and then worked in English departments at Russell Group universities in the UK, before moving to New York University as a professor of Arts and Literature in the interdisciplinary global liberal arts (Liberal Studies), and Director of Digital Humanities for NYU. Marion returned to the UK to take up the position of Professor of Literature & Culture and Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities at King's in Autumn 2018. She works on technology and the production of knowledge, and is Director of the Centre of Attention Studies at KCL (attentionstudies.org)

Thea Turton (KCL)

(Session 4: A new generation reflect on Tutu's legacy; Session 9: Leadership and the Nobel Peace Prize (Chair))

Thea is a 2nd year Religion & Politics student at King's College London and President of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies (TRS) Student Society - the department in which Desmond Tutu studied. Thea recently interviewed Ziauddin Yousafzai, Malala's father, for a sold-out TRS Society event. Thea also helped with editorial work on Ziauddin's daily Twitter campaign for Afghan girls to return to education. Thea is also a qualified firefighter and medic (in rural France, where she grew up) and although she no longer practices, believes this led to her keen sense of social justice / women's rights and opportunity. At university she also practises Muay Thai.

The Revd Mpho Tutu van Furth, Theologian and co-author with Desmond Tutu, *The Book of Forgiving*

(Session 8: Gender and Sexuality)

The Revd Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth is the youngest of her parents' four children. She has worked with her father as co-author on two books, *Made for Goodness* and *The Book of Forgiving*. She was Director of the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern African Refugee Scholarship Fund in New York in the 1980s, and later the founding Executive Director of the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation.



Mabel van Oranje, former CEO, The Elders (2008–12); Founder 'Girls not Brides'

(Session 9: Leadership and the Nobel Peace Prize)

Mabel van Oranje is a serial entrepreneur for social change, working globally to advance equality, freedom and justice. During the last decade, she played a catalytic role in the global movement to end child marriage, including the creation and growth of three entities central to efforts to support girls' futures: Girls Not Brides, the Girls First Fund, and VOW for Girls. Mabel is currently a board member of Fondation Chanel, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, and VOW for Girls (Chair). She is also an advisor to Apolitical Academy Global, Co-Impact's Gender Fund, Global Witness, and The Elders. Mabel is a global champion of Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage, and a co-founder and chair emeritus of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Professor Linda Woodhead, FD Maurice Professor of Moral & Social Theology, KCL

(Chair, afternoon sessions; Session 10: Final reflections)

Professor Linda Woodhead MBE has been FD Maurice Professor of Moral & Social Theology at King's College London since December 2021, and is also Head of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies. Her work specialises on religion, beliefs, and values, and her books include *The Spiritual Revolution* (with Paul Heelas), *A Very Short Introduction to Christianity*, *That Was the Church that Was*, and *Gen Z Explained* (with Roberta Katz, Sarah Ogilvie and Jane Shaw) on the values, beliefs and identities of students in the UK and USA. She has been a member of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Church of England's Doctrine Commission, coordinated the Westminster Faith Debates, and spoken at the World Economic Forum (Davos) and the Greenbelt Festival.

Khushal Yousafzai (KCL)

(Session 4: A new generation reflect on Tutu's legacy)

Khushal Yousafzai was born in Pakistan but immigrated to the UK due to terrorism. He is now in his 2nd year studying Religion, Philosophy, & Ethics at King's College London, where he is also the vice president and events manager of the Theology & Religious Studies Society. Khushal speaks three languages, Pashto, Urdu, and English, and is keen on learning more. His interests include philosophy, writing poetry, and fitness. Alongside university, Khushal is working on an NFT project which will aim to promote and support quality education through digital art.

Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize winner 2014

(Session 9: Leadership and the Nobel Peace Prize)

Malala Yousafzai was born in 1997. Malala's father was a teacher and ran a girls' school in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. Life in her village changed when the Taliban took over and prohibited girls from going to school. Malala spoke out and in 2012, a masked gunman boarded her school bus and shot her in the head. She woke up ten days later in hospital in Birmingham. In 2014, after extensive surgery and rehabilitation, she joined her family in her new home in the UK. She founded the Malala Fund, a charity dedicated to giving every girl a future she chooses. In December 2014, she became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate in recognition of her work. From 2018-2020, she studied Philosophy, Politics & Economics at the University of Oxford. She has continued her work to ensure that all girls receive twelve years of free, safe, quality education and has visited many countries in her work.