

Preface

Johannes A. Smit

We wish to dedicate this issue of *Alternation*, on Gullibility in Zimbabwe, to the late Professor Nisbert Taisekwa Taringa (11 May 1964 – 10 January 2020). Nisbert first proposed the project on my visit in 2013, as one that he and colleagues have been discussing in Zimbabwe for some years. Following my 2014 visit to ZU, and his sabbatical at Howard College, UKZN, Durban, in 2016, Prof. Taringa and Dr. David Bishau took it further.

Completing his MA in Intercultural Theology (Radboud University, Netherlands, 2005), Prof. Taringa graduated with a PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Zimbabwe (UZ 2008). As Professor in Phenomenology of Religion and World Religions, he served at UZ for more than twenty-eight years. His research interests included religions and contemporary ethical issues related to religion and health and wellbeing, human rights, the natural environment, religious pluralism, and gender and sexuality. At the time of his untimely passing he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Zimbabwe, and was working on two related projects, on religion and the natural environment and religion and human rights in Zimbabwe. He also served as Head of the Department of Religious Studies, Classics and Philosophy for just over nine years.

Nisbert has been one of the foremost academic visionaries of his generation. He tirelessly led by example in research, teaching and learning, research presentations and organising of regular research conferences, seminars, and also research output opportunities for colleagues in the field. He created a hub for research in the Arts, at UZ. This *Alternation* issue is a small token of our appreciation for his substantial contribution to research, and for his legacy of research capacity development and mentoring of emerging scholars.

We also wish to thank Dr. David Bishau, who was co-editor from the beginning of this project, together with Prof. Taringa, and who saw it through to its completion. Thanks David.

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