

# ∞ Contributors ∞

**Irvin G. Chetty** is a theologian and activist who is currently the Head of the Centre for Theology & Religion at the University of Fort Hare. He has lectured at the University of Durban-Westville, University of Zululand, two private tertiary colleges, where he also served as principal and now at Fort Hare. Irvin has studied at the University of Durban-Westville for his bachelors and masters degrees in theology and earned both an Honours degree in psychology and a doctorate in theology from the University of Zululand. He was a recipient of scholarships from the Human Science Research Council, Educational Opportunities Council and the Ford Foundation. The latter two scholarship Scholarships allowed him to also earn a doctorate in theology in the USA. He has published in both local and international journals. He has been lecturing and supervising both undergraduate and postgraduate students. More recently he has co-supervised trans-disciplinary postgraduate research. Contact details: [ichetty@ufh.ac.za](mailto:ichetty@ufh.ac.za) / [irvingchetty@gmail.com](mailto:irvingchetty@gmail.com)

**Denzil Chetty** is lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies and Arabic at the University of South Africa. He teaches comparative religion (with a focus on Abrahamic religions). His research niche focuses on religion, civil society and technology. In addition, he has been probing the use of technology in curriculum design within higher education. Chetty also serves as the secretary for the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa (ASRSA). Chetty is also a trustee on the International Association for the History of Religion (IAHR) African Trust Fund and on a member of the editorial committee for the IAHR book series with Equinox. Contact details: [chettd@unisa.ac.za](mailto:chettd@unisa.ac.za)

## *Contributors*

**Farid Esack** studied in Pakistan, the UK and Germany and is the author of *Qur'an, Liberation and Pluralism*”, *On Being a Muslim, An Introduction to the Qur'an*, and *“Islam, HIV & AIDS –Between Scorn Pity & Justice* He has published on Islam, Gender, Liberation Theology, Interfaith Relations, and Qur'anic Hermeneutics. Professor Esack served as a Commissioner for Gender Equality South African and has taught at the Universities of Western Cape, and Hamburg, the College of William & Mary and Union Theological Seminary (NY) at Xavier University in Cincinnati and more recently he served as the Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islam at Harvard University. Farid Esack is now Professor in the Study of Islam and Head of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Johannesburg. Contact details: fesack@uj.ac.za

**Madhu Kasiram** is a Professor in the School of Applied Human Sciences, Discipline of Social Work at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She has served as educator and researcher in Social Work for the past 26 years. Her expertise and interests include: under- and postgraduate research promotion, family therapy, HIV and AIDS and spiritual competency in social work. Contact details: Kasiramm@ukzn.ac.za

**Nelly Mwale** (MEd) is a lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Zambia. Her research interests are centred on Religion and Development, African Religions, Higher Education in Africa, and the interface between Religion and Politics. Contact details: nelmwa@gmail.com

**Delarise Mulqueeny** is a PhD student in the field of Gender Studies at the School of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is a social worker, educator, family therapist, HIV activist and motivational speaker. Contact details: delarisemulqueeny@gmail.com

**Nolwazi Ngcobo** is a lecturer in the School of Applied Human Sciences, Social Work Department at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Nolwazi has been a Social Worker for ten years mainly in the field of HIV/AIDS. Her area of research/ teaching interest is in the provision of care and support for women living with HIV/AIDS. Contact details: ngcobon@ukzn.ac.za

**Pratap Kumar Penumala** is a Professor Emeritus at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. He is author of several books and scholarly papers and has edited several books. His recent publications include--*Hinduism and the Diaspora: A South African Narrative*, Rawat Publishers, (2013); His edited volumes include--*Classical and Contemporary Issues in Indian Philosophy and Religion*, DK Print Publishers, (2013); *Contemporary Hinduism*. Acumen (2013). Contact details: penumalap@ukzn.ac.za

**Auwais Rafudeen** pursued both his undergraduate and postgraduate training in Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town. His doctoral thesis was entitled "Frithjof Schuon and the problematic of mystical experience. He subsequently completed an Honours in Arabic at the University of the Western Cape and held an NRF fellowship at the same institution, where he pursued research on Arabic texts written in colonial Cape Town. His interests include Islamic mysticism, South African Muslim history, contemporary Islamic thought and translations of contemporary Arabic religious texts. Having been a long-time staff member of an Islamic college in Cape Town, he is currently Senior Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies and Arabic, UNISA. Contact details: Rafudma@unisa.ac.za

**Nisbert Taisekwa Taringa** holds a PhD in Religious Studies and is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Religious Studies, Classics and Philosophy, University of Zimbabwe. He is a Fulbright and DAAD Alumni. His areas of interests are is Phenomenology of Religion, World Religions, African Traditional religions and Systematic Theology. He has research interest in methods and theories in the study of religion and in religions and contemporary ethical issues the Environment, Human rights, Gender and Sexuality and health and well-being. Contact details: nissie25@yahoo.co.uk or ntaringa@arts.uz.ac.zw

**Peter Thomas Sandy** is presently an Associate Professor at the University of South Africa, Department of Health Studies. He is a Mental Health Practitioner and Health Research Psychologist who has worked in the United Kingdom with a wide range of clinical presentations of people with mental health difficulties and learning disabilities. As a Clinical Lead, Peter Thomas Sandy actively supported people with drug and alcohol problems, mental

## *Contributors*

health difficulties and self-harming behaviours using specific counselling styles like motivational interviewing. Peter Thomas Sandy's clinical experiences shaped his research interests. He is interested in drug and alcohol use among vulnerable populations, such as women, homeless, and people with mental health and learning disability problems. From a broader perspective, Peter Thomas Sandy has huge interest in attitude and behaviour change, and has conducted funded research related to these areas. For example, he conducted research on attitudes of mental workers on people who self-harm in large mental health institutions in England that resulted in the development of the Self-harm Explanatory Model. As an academic, Peter Thomas Sandy worked in the England as a Principal Lecturer (Associate Professor) at Buckinghamshire University and developed and led a range of training programmes for mental health practitioners in both generic and forensic settings. Peter Thomas Sandy earned his doctoral degree (PhD) from Brunel University, England, United Kingdom. His thesis focused on a very controversial area of mental health practice, application of harm minimisation approach to people who self-mutilate. Contact details: sandypt@unisa.ac.za

**Johannes A. Smit** is a graduate of the University of Durban-Westville (now UKZN), founding editor of the SAPSE journal *Alternation* and served as research chair of the Humanities for some years. He has a lifelong commitment to interdisciplinary learning and critical research capacity development in the Arts and Humanities. Currently, he serves as Dean and Head of School of the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics at UKZN. He teaches Comparative Religion (main focus Christianity), and is the head of the Programme in Religion and Social Transformation since 2002. Contact details: smitj@ukzn.ac.za

**Beverly Vencatsamy** is a lecturer in Comparative Religion at the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, UKZN. She holds a Masters Degree in Religion Education and is currently completing her PhD on Community Engagement at Institutes of Higher Learning. Contact details: vencatsamyb@ukzn.ac.za