

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 / 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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