



RefoRC

CONNECTING
ACADEMICS

RESEARCH PROJECT REFO 500

26 – 27 November 2018

Faculty of Theology
North-West University
Potchefstroom



Convention room 204 (top floor)
Faculty Building
Corner of Molen & Borchard Streets
Potchefstroom

**Reformation
theology and its
impact on world
societies
after 500 years
(1517-2017)**

**The Reformation of
1517 revisited after
500 years . Causes,
issues and effects
as well as relevancy
for today (inter alia
for Europe and
South Africa).
Reflections on (inter
alia) Augustine and
Calvin)**

PILOT PROJECT

This conference serves as a pilot project constructing the backbone for a later conference. The chief aim of the project, ***Reformation theology and its impact on world societies after 500 years (1571-2017)***, is to offer new approaches to the important question of the impact of the Reformed world and life view upon modern society and the mentality by investigating:

- (1) how key ideas in Reformed theology can be seen as implicating a kind of social teaching
- (2) to what extent social teachings inherent in Reformed theology form the background of religious and social institutions, especially socio-economical and political structures, during the formative period between the Reformation and the modern and post-modern periods
- (3) by combining theological and historical perspectives this project aims to offer important new insights into the shaping of the European and especially the South African society during the last

two centuries

- (4) the project also aims at establishing a firm foundation for a further discussion of the role of the Reformation for modern self-understanding and politics

The project will mainly focus on perspectives from the Reformed Reformation (Calvin) – causes, issues and effects – but also on the great influence which Augustine had on Calvin.

PROGRAM

Monday 26 November 2018

- 08:30 – 09:00 Registration and light refreshments
- 09:00 – 09:15 Opening and words of welcome
- 09:15 – 10:15 Keynote address 1: *A review of REFO 500 and its meaning for the church, theology and society.*
Keynote Speaker: Prof. Herman Selderhuis
Chair: Prof. Amie van Wyk
- 10:15 – 11:00 Reception of the Reformation in Africa: Relevance of the desacralization thesis.
Speaker: Prof. Riann Venter
Chair: Dr. Manitza Kotzé
- 11:00 – 11:30 Break (Faculty tea room)
- 11:30 – 12:15 Death, dying and funerals in South Africa: What could Martin Luther contribute to this bleeding society?
Speaker: Prof. Natie van Wyk
Chair: Prof. Marianne Dircksen
- 12:15 – 13:00 The Reformation and education: A solution to the South African problem
Speaker: Prof. Johan van der Merwe
Chair: Prof. Riann Venter
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch (Faculty tea room)
- 14:00 – 15:00 Keynote address 2: "Did the Protestant Reformation change the world?"
Keynote Speaker: Prof. Philippe Denis
Chair: Prof. Francois Muller
- 15:00 – 15:45 Reformed ecclesiology: Still relevant in the 21st century?
Speaker: Dr. Wim Dreyer
Chair: Prof. Pieter Coertzen
- 15:45 – 16:15 Break (Faculty tea room)
- 16:15 – 17:00 The impact of Calvinism in ecclesiastical matters in South Africa with special reference to viewpoints on Church government and Scripture within the "Tussenkerklike Raad", 1982-2009.
Speaker: Prof. Callie Coetzee
Chair: Prof. Francois Muller

17:00 – 17:45 *'Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda: The always reforming reception of Karl Barth's theology'*
Speaker: Dr. Manitza Kotzé
Chair: Prof. Raymond Potgieter

Tuesday 27 November 2018

08:00 – 08:30 Coffee/tea (Faculty tea room)

08:30 – 08:45 Devotion: Dr. Manitza Kotzé

08:45 – 09:30 PREDESTINATION. A theological reflection on this famous but sometimes queried doctrine. Does not this doctrine make men careless and profane? (see HC 24:46).
Speaker: Prof. Amie van Wyk
Chair: Dr. Sarel van der Walt

09:30 – 10:15 The 97 Theses (4/5 September 1517): a precursor to the 95 Theses (31 October 1517)?
Speaker: Prof. Raymond Potgieter
Chair: Dr. Wim Dreyer

10:15 – 11:00 The relevance and importance of translating documents from the Reformation.
Speaker: Prof. Marianne Dircksen
Chair: Prof. Natie van Wyk

11:00 – 11:30 Break (Faculty tea room)

11:30 – 12:15 The Reformation and Freedom of Religion.
Speaker: Prof. Pieter Coertzen
Chair: Prof. Callie Coetzee

12:15 – 13:00 [Theme to be confirmed]
Speaker: Prof. Francois Muller
Chair: Prof. Johan van der Merwe

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch (Faculty tea room)

14:00 – 15:00 Business meeting and planning ahead (all participants)

15:00 – 15:15 Closing