

International Lecture Series 2026

Religion, Migration & Global Justice

Public Theologies in
Displacement

WEDNESDAYS
FEB 4 - MAY 6

08:00-09:30 (EST) 10:00-11:30 (BRT) 13:00-14:30 (GMT) 14:00-15:30 (CET) 15:00-16:30 (SAST, EET) 18:30-20:00 (IST)
21:00-22:30 (PHT) 00:00-01:30 (AEDT)

Due to shift in daylight saving time: 11 Mar, 18 Mar, 25 Mar 09:00-10:30 (EDT)

FROM APRIL 1:

08:00-09:30 (EDT) 09:00-10:30 (BRT) 13:00-14:30 (GMT) 14:00-15:30 (CEST) 14:00-15:30 (SAST, EET) 17:30-19:00 (IST)
20:00-21:30 (PHT) 23:00-00:30 (AEDT)

FOR REGISTRATION EMAIL ELISE.LINDKVIST@CTR.LU.SE

CONTENT

PROGRAMME	1
ABSTRACT	2
REGISTRATION	3
LECTURERS	4
CONTACT	9

**WED
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DAYS**

FEB 4 - MAY 6

08:00-09:30 EST 10:00-11:30 BRT
13:00-14:30 GMT 14:00-15:30 CET
15:00-16:30 SAST, EET 18:30-20:00 IST
21:00-22:30 PHT 00:00-01:30
(MAR 11, 18 & 25 09:00-10:30 EDT)
FROM APRIL 1:
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13:00-14:30 GMT 14:00-15:30 CEST
14:00-15:30 SAST, EET 17:30-19:00 IST
20:00-21:30 PHT 23:00-00:30 AEDT

PROGRAMME
International Lecture Series 2026

FEB 4 ELENA FIDDIAN-QASMIYHE

Title TBC

FEB 11 FEDERICO SETTLER

The Role of Indigenous Religion and Customary Law in Mitigating Xenophobia in South Africa

FEB 18 FENGGANG YANG

Displacement and Mission: Chinese Christian Transnational Networks in the Struggle for Religious Freedom

FEB 25 METTURSUN BEYDULLA

Settler Colonialism, Internal and International Forced Migration of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang (East Turkistan), and Global Justice

MAR 4 TETIANA KALENYCHENKO

Justice, Peace and Theology Transformations During the Russian-Ukrainian War

MAR 11 YOUSEF ALKHOURI

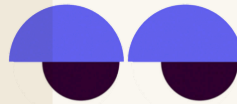
Replacing the Natives: Palestinian Christians and the Threat of Erasure

MAR 18 KHANDAY PERVAIZ AHMAD

Gendered Memories of Partition: Women's Oral and Written Narratives of Displacement in 1947 Kashmir

MAR 25 JEFFERSON ZEFERINO & RUDOLF VON SINNER

Migration, Displacement and Ethnicity in Brazil: Times and Spaces



Be aware that on 28 Mar the European Union transitions from CET to CEST, resulting in a one hour delay in the starting time for numerous time zones. The US transitions from EST to EDT on the 8 Mar, which means that 11 Mar, 18 Mar, 25 Mar lecture time is 09:00-10:30 (EDT)

APR 1 ANAS ANSAR, ROHINI MITRA & ABU FAISAL MD. KHALED

Faith at the Margins: Christian Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh and India

APR 8 JANNA HUNTER-BOWMAN

"I participate to re-exist": Latin American Migrant-Led Social Movements, Contested Christianity and US Politics Today

APR 15 MUNZOUL ASSAL

Faith in Flight: The role of Religion among Sudanese Refugees in Kampala, Uganda

APR 22 SEFOROSA CARROLL

Too Late for Justice? Disappearing Islands, Migration and Climate Justice

APR 29 DANIELA LUCIA RAPISARDA

Theological Reconfigurations of the Mediterranean Border as Contributions to Global Justice

MAY 6 CONCLUDING CONVERSATION

ABSTRACT

Across the globe, the number of people who have been forced to flee their homes in search of better or bare life is rising. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number is unprecedented: 123.2 million people – 1 out of 67 people – have been displaced. Most of them are hosted in low-income countries in the Global South rather than high-income countries in the Global North.

Religions are resources for people on the move, for those who support them, and for those who spurn them. In contexts of what the UNHCR calls forced displacement, then, the critical and constructive reflection on the ambiguous power of religion takes on new ethical, political, and theological significance.

Against this backdrop, the international lecture series, “Religion, Migration, and Global Justice: Public Theologies in Displacement”, approaches the entanglements of religion and migration in situations of **forced displacement** as a global concern. We are interested in the interplay of local and global perspectives, asking how specific displacement settings influence global dynamics and how global dynamics influence specific displacement settings. We interpret the public and political role of religions in these entanglements critically and constructively, investigating how they confirm and challenge asymmetrical power structures that lead to expulsions and exploitation.

The scholarly conversation on justice in situations of **forced displacement** commonly concentrates on specific cases in specific countries, but we insist on a **decolonial mapping** of how the local and the global hang together in the production and practice of **global in/justice**.

The links for each session will be provided via email to registered participants.

To register email: elise.lindkvist@ctr.lu.se by 14 January 2026

For questions about credits, please contact the coordinator at your home institution.

Conveners

Ulrich Schmiedel and Elise Lindkvist
Lund University

Coordinators

Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines:

Ruben Mendoza, Remmon E. Barbaza

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands:

Dion Forster

Lund University, Sweden:

Ulrich Schmiedel, Elise Lindkvist

Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Brazil:

Douglas F. Barros, Jefferson Zeferino

Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil:

Rudolf von Sinner

Universidade Católica Portuguesa Lisboa, Portugal:

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Ulrich Schmiedel

University of Graz, Austria:

Martina Bär

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa:

Dion Forster

University of Tübingen, Germany:

Sebastian Pittl

University of Vienna, Austria:

Andreas Telser

LECTURERS



Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh

University College London, United Kingdom

Elena is Professor of Migration and Refugee Studies at UCL, where she is also Co-Director of the UCL-Migration Research Unit and Director of the Refuge in a Moving World network based in the UCL-Institute of Advanced Studies. Her research is interdisciplinary and participatory in nature, and draws on critical theoretical perspectives, including feminist and Southern theories and approaches. Since the early-2000s, her work has focused on better understanding experiences of and responses to displacement in and from the Middle East and North Africa. Within this context, Elena's research and teaching look particularly at the intersections between gender, generation and religion in experiences of and responses to displacement. She has conducted extensive research in refugee camps and urban areas including in Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, France, Lebanon, South Africa, Syria, Sweden, and the UK. Her books include *The Ideal Refugees* (2014), *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies* (2014), *South-South Educational Migration, Humanitarianism and Development* (2015), and *The Handbook of South-South Relations* (2018). She is PI of the Refugee Hosts project (see www.refugeehosts.org and @RefugeeHosts) and the Southern-Led Responses to Displacement project (www.southernresponses.org and @SouthernResp).



Federico Settler

University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Prof Federico Settler is the Dean and Head of the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is a leading sociologist of religion from South Africa and his areas of specialization are race, migration and postcolonialism. He has published widely on the intersection of race and migration, and its entanglements with religion. He is the editor of a leading journal, *Culture and Religion*, and has served as lead PI on several national and international research projects. Prof Settler has held prestigious fellowships at Harvard and Oxford Universities, and most recently was visiting professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. He is presently completing a manuscript titled *Mundane Enchantments* (Routledge) in which he engages with the themes of everyday religious practices, as well as migration and race after colonialism.



Fenggang Yang

Purdue University, USA

Fenggang Yang is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Religion and the Global East, Purdue University, Indiana, USA. He is the author of *Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities* (1999), *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule* (2012), and *Atlas of Religion in China: Social and Geographical Contexts* (2018). He has served as the President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Founding President of the East Asian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.



Mettursun Beydulla

Independent Scholar, USA

Mettursun Beydulla, a native Uyghur, focuses on Uyghur language, literature, culture, immigration, diasporas, and China's policies in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region/XUAR (East Turkistan). He earned a doctorate in social/cultural anthropology from Ankara University and has published extensively in English, Turkish, and Uyghur. He also holds a BA in Chinese history from Shaanxi Normal University and an MA in Turkish history from Ankara University. His doctoral work explored village life in Khotan in XUAR, and has published in the Central Asian Survey. Beydulla has researched and taught Uyghur language, literature, and culture at institutions like the American University in Cairo, Harvard, MIT, and Fatih University in Istanbul, where he initiated a Uyghur diaspora project. Recently, he held positions at Georgetown University as a National Security Education Fellow and as an independent researcher at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. He has been studying and publishing about the Uyghurs both in China and in the diaspora for twenty-five years and is the author of the recent book chapter "Survivor Guilt among Uyghurs in the Diaspora" and the journal article "Struggles and Dilemmas of Uyghur Immigrants in Turkey".



Tetiana Kalenychnenko

St Ignatios Stockholm, Sweden

Dialogue in Action, Ukraine

Tetiana Kalenychnenko has a Ph. D. in Sociology of Religion. Her thesis work was on "Religious component in Socio-Political Conflict in Ukraine 2013-2017 years". Together with other colleagues, she created an organization called "Dialogue in Action" that aims to develop a culture of dialogue by uniting secular and religious leaders in fieldwork. Tetiana has more than 12 years of experience in Peacebuilding, Sociology of Religion, Conflict Studies, Conflict Management, Restorative Practices and Dialogues in cooperation with international (USIP, OSCE, UNDP, USAID, MCC, DRC and others) and many national organizations. As peacebuilder at Mirovna Academia (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina). From 2023, a Guest Researcher at Sankt Ignatios College (Sweden) and based in Ukraine. She is combining work in the field of analysis and academic research with work as a dialogue facilitator and trainer in the frames of adult education.



Yousef AlKhouri

Bethlehem Bible College, Palestine

Dr. Yousef Kamal AlKhouri (Ph.D., Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) is a Christian Arab Palestinian theologian from Gaza. He serves as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies and Academic Dean at Bethlehem Bible College. He is a member of the steering committee of Christ at the Checkpoint and the board of Kairos Palestine. His research and publications, in Arabic and English, center on Palestinian theology, contextual biblical interpretation, and the witness of Christianity within the Palestinian experience.



Khanday Pervaiz Ahmad

Maulana Azad National Urdu University, India

Dr. Khanday Pervaiz Ahmad is Assistant Professor in the Department of History, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. He obtained his Ph.D. in History from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, with a thesis on *Print Culture and Women's Voices: A Study of Urdu Journals (1898-1936)*. His research interests include South Asian Muslim women in the modern period, women's print culture in Urdu, and the social history of Kashmir. Dr. Ahmad has published widely in reputed journals such as *Journal of Women's Studies and History and Sociology of South Asia*, and is the author of *Women in Modern India: Issues in Marginalisation and Empowerment (2025)*.



Jefferson Zeferino

Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Brazil

Jefferson Zeferino is an Associate Professor in the Postgraduate Programme in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC-Campinas, Brazil). Member of the research group "History of Religions and Religiosities" (PUC-Campinas). Associate Researcher with the Research Centre for Theology and Religious Studies (CITER, Universidade Católica Portuguesa). Member of the Executive Committee of the Global Network for Public Theology, representing South America. Assistant Editor of the *International Journal of Public Theology* and the PUC-Campinas journal *Reflexão*. His research focuses mainly on Public Theology and the history of Protestantism in Brazil. He is the author of approximately sixty texts, including book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals. His most recent book, co-authored with Rudolf von Sinner, is *Public Theology: History, Foundations, and Perspectives* (published in Portuguese). One of his most recent articles, also in collaboration with Rudolf von Sinner, was published in *Religions: 'Theology Goes Public: Richard Shaull's Dialogue with Public Issues, Social Sciences, and Ecumenism in 'The New Revolutionary Mood in Latin America' (1962).'*" His current research project examines the connections between theology, land, public life, and spatiality in Brazil's history.



Rudolf von Sinner

Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná at Curitiba, Brazil

Rudolf von Sinner, a Swiss naturalized Brazilian, Dr. theol. habil., is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Pontifical Universidade Católica do Paraná at Curitiba, Brazil, Head of the Graduate Programme in Theology, and also teaches in the Graduate Programme in Human Rights and Public Policies. He is an extra-ordinary Professor at the Faculty of Theology of Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Public Theology*. Among his book publications in English are *The Churches and Democracy in Brazil: Towards a Public Theology Focused on Citizenship* (Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock, 2012), *Public Theology in the Secular State: A Perspective from the Global South* (Zurich: LIT, 2021), and (co-edited with Dion A. Forster) *Faith in Public: Theological-Political Dialogues between Brazil and South Africa* (Stellenbosch: SUN Media, 2025, forthcoming).

LECTURERS



Anas Ansar

Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, Germany

Anas Ansar is an Assistant Professor in Political Science at North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Senior Researcher, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute, Freiburg, Germany.



Rohini Mitra

University of Göttingen, Germany

Rohini Mitra is a post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany.



Abu Faisal Md. Khaled

University of Bielefeld, Germany

Abu Faisal Md. Khaled, is a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Bielefeld, Germany.



Janna Hunter-Bowman

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, USA

Janna L. Hunter-Bowman is Associate Professor of Peace Studies and Christian Social Ethics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Her research explores agency under duress, political theologies, and Anabaptist peace traditions, analyzing the historical development of peace theologies and advocating for self-reflective engagement with issues of power, justice, and historical complicity. Current collaborative research with U.S. migrant-led movement Movimiento Cosecha in the United States is supported by Louisville Institute's Sabbatical Grant for Researchers and finds expression in her newest book, tentatively titled *Mobilizing the Dead: Migrant-led Movements Re-member the Crucified Body*. She is author of the book *Witnessing Peace: Becoming Agents Under Duress in Colombia* (2022), which is rooted in a decade of peacebuilding work and research in Latin America, and articles appearing in the *Journal of Moral Theology*, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, *Political Theology*, the *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, and *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.



Munzoul Assal

Chr. Michelsen Institute Bergen, Norway

Munzoul A. M. Assal holds a PhD in social anthropology from the University of Bergen, Norway. Prior to joining CMI as Senior Researcher he was Professor of social anthropology at the University of Khartoum, director of the Peace Research Institute, and Dean of Scientific Research. He also served as the Director of the Mamoun Beheiry Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Africa (2015-2017). Assal was a visiting professor at the University of Paris 8 (2009), the University of Sharjah, UAE (2020-2021). Assal is Professor II in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen. He has coordinated and led several MFA and NORAD funded projects. He led NORHED I "Borderland dynamics in East African: anthropological capacity building in East African universities" (2014-2018), NORHED II "Refugees on the move: South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda" (2021-2025), and is co-leader of "Sudan Norway Academic Collaboration SNAC" (2022-2026). Assal's research focuses on migration, refugees, internally displaced persons, conflict and humanitarian studies.



Seforosa Carroll

Charles Sturt University, Australia

Rev Dr Seforosa Carroll is Acting Principal, Academic Dean and Lecturer in Cross Cultural Ministry at the United Theological College, School of Theology, Charles Sturt University, Australia. Sef is an Australian Fiji born Rotuman theologian. Sef is an interdisciplinary theologian whose research falls into the categories of public, contextual and practical theologies. Prior to joining UTC, Sef was the Programme Executive for Mission, Mission from the Margins and the Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network with the World Council of Churches based in Geneva, Switzerland. Before that Sef worked with UnitingWorld as a theological researcher (on climate and gender) and the church partnerships manager (Pacific) facilitating church relationships in Australia and the Pacific. Sef is a great believer in the powerful role theology can play in bringing about transformative change.



Daniela Lucia Rapisarda

VID Specialized University Stavanger, Norway

Daniela Lucia Rapisarda is Professor of Systematic and Constructive Theology at VID Specialised University in Stavanger, Norway. Rapisarda holds a PhD in Theology from MF – Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society in Oslo. She works at the intersection of Systematic/Constructive Theology and issues of gender, trauma, migration, conflict and peace. Her most recent publication is *Theology on the Border: The Mediterranean, Minority Identity, and Migration* (Routledge, 2025).

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