



## International Research Training Group – Transformative Religion

### IRTG SUMMER/ SPRING SCHOOL (23-27 SEPT 2024) UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

#### RELIGION, HEALING AND POWER

#### PRE PROGRAMME – MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

13:00 - 16:00	<b>Empirical Engagements with Healing</b>
	Two Guided Excursions are planned for the afternoon:  (1) <b>Warwick Street Herbal Market</b> (2) <b>Umlazi Isangoma Traditional Herbal Market</b>
16:00	Arrival and Registration
17:00	Spring/ Summer School Welcome Reception <i>Coastands Hotel, Musgrave</i>

## DAY 1

**TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024: UKZN - UNITE CONFERENCE CENTRE**

09:00 – 09:30	Opening and Welcome:  Prof Federico Settler & Prof Regina Römhild
09:30 - 11:00	Keynote Address African Traditional Religious notions of well-being, and healing in South Africa <b><i>Prof Nokuzola Mndende</i></b> Nelson Mandela University, and Founder, Icamagu Institute
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00	Henri Vogel Memorial Panel: <b>Postcolonial/ Gendered Perspectives on Health and Healing</b> – Chairperson: Annachiara Jung Forte
	Healing through tradition: Nguni indigenous practices and rituals for transgender and gender-diverse people <b><i>Sizwesamajobe Sithole</i></b> <hr/> Eurhythmics, Gymnastics: Aligning the Four Bodies in Post-Pandemic Germany <b><i>Armanç Yildiz</i></b> <hr/> Conceptions Of Well-Being Among African Women Volunteers In South African Faith Communities <b><i>Lerato kaNomsa Msweli</i></b>



## DAY 1

### TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024: UKZN - UNITE CONFERENCE CENTRE

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Wilhem Gräb Memorial Panel:</b> <b>Health, Development, and the Anthropocene</b> – Chairperson: Nadine Bowers-du Toit
	Healing the Environment: An Appraisal of African Traditional Religion and Ecological Sustainability in Southern Africa <b><i>Philipp Öhlmann</i></b> <hr/> Ecological leadership and healing practices: On the intersection of healing, ecological conversion, and theology <b><i>Almila Akca and Ignatius Swart</i></b> <hr/> "Our goal is always - We want to get that healing": Healing as UN Post-2030 Agenda? - Integrating Situated Knowledge for Social Transformation <b><i>Nina van der Puije</i></b> <hr/> Jehovah Rapha and Amanzi: Ritual Healing and Christian Inculturation in an African Initiated Church <b><i>Li'Tsoanelo Zwane</i></b>
15:30 – 16:30	Embodiment as the Fifth Research Area in the IRTG <b><i>Seyram Amenyedzi, Armanç Yildiz</i></b>
17:00 – 17:30	Light Dinner, UKZN Centre for Jazz
17:30 - 19:00	Artistic Performance by African Music and Dance Ensemble

## DAY 2

### WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024: UKZN - UNITE CONFERENCE CENTRE

09:00 - 09:30	Opening and Welcome: Prof Maheshvari Naidu  <b><i>Prof Nana Poku</i></b> Vice-Chancellor & Principal, University of KwaZulu-Natal
09:30 – 11:00	Keynote Address Mental Health: A Bio-Spiritual Question for Identity and Meaning <b><i>Prof Suvira Ramlall</i></b> School of Psychiatry, UKZN
11:00 – 11:30	Tea & Coffee Stretch Break
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Panel 3: National Healing and Contested Identities</b> – Chairperson: Kiern Wurts
	Mental illness experiences: The rituals for healing afflicted social bodies in Southern Africa <b><i>Maja Jakarazi &amp; Nomsa Ntshangase</i></b> <hr/> 'Das eine ist verbunden mit Gott, das andere aber auch': service provision as part of religious life in the Eritrean Orthodox community in Berlin, Germany <b><i>Susanna Trotta</i></b> <hr/> Religious Ritual, Discursive, and Identity Powers Framing Interfaith Responses of Healers to Covid-19 <b><i>Xolile Simon</i></b>
13:00 -14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 17:00	<b>Open Workshop 1: "Grief and Healing Connections with Poetry: Drawing on Indigenous African and Hindu/Sufi Poetic Mediums"</b> <b><i>Maheshvari Naidu and Ntando Hlabisa</i></b>
17:00	Depart UKZN Campus to Coastlands Hotel (5-minute commute)
	Free Evening – Reading -Supervision Meetings



## DAY 3

**THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2024: UKZN - UNITE CONFERENCE CENTRE**

09:00 - 09:30	Welcome: Dr Cherry Muslim <b><i>Prof Vivian Ojong</i></b> Dean of Research College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal
	<b>Panel 4: Religion, Health and the Public Sphere</b> – Chairperson: Xolile Simon
09:30-11:00	Religion, De-/Postcoloniality, and Bio-/Necropolitics in South Africa: Towards a Diversity-Conscious HIV/AIDS Discourse <b><i>Ulrike Ernst-Auga</i></b> <hr/> Crossing the Red Sea –Biblical references and orientation in processes of social Transformation <b><i>Jakob Langen</i></b> <hr/> <hr/> From Trauma to Healing: revising debt, land and dignity in South Africa <b><i>Sabrina Keller &amp; Skhumbuzo Zuma</i></b> <hr/> <hr/> "A Deep Crisis of Purpose in Our Society Today" - The Interpretive Power of Religion in the Nexus of Nation and State, the Example of Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel. <b><i>Georg Breitfeld</i></b>
11:00 - 11:30	Tea & Coffee Stretch Break

## DAY 3

**THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2024: UKZN - UNITE CONFERENCE CENTRE**

11:30 - 13:00	<b>Panel 5: Health, Indigenous Healing and the Sensory</b> – Chairperson: Vuyolwethu Qinela
	<p>Healing liturgies: Shembe's understanding of the concept of death in the hymnal of iBandla lamaNazaretha <b><i>Hlabisa Mlungisi</i></b></p> <hr/> <p>Aesthetically healing Impambano: Healers accounts of managing mental illness in Langa <b><i>Zikhona Kokoma</i></b></p> <hr/> <p>The Religious lives of everyday objects <b><i>Federico Settler</i></b></p> <hr/> <p>Contemporary Spiritual Transformations and Mental Health in Zimbabwe <b><i>Maja Jakarazi</i></b></p>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Open Workshop no.2: Psychiatrisation, Individualisation and Depoliticisation of experiences of suffering</b> <b><i>Ulrike Kluge</i></b>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Stretch Break</b>
16:00 - 18:30	<b>Supervision Sessions</b>
18:30	Depart Hotel for Evening Feedback Discussion over Collective Dinner





## DAY 4

**FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024: UKZN - UNITE CONFERENCE CENTRE**

08:30 - 09:00	Arrival at UKZN Howard College Campus (Coffee)
09:00 -11:00	<b>Open Workshop 3:</b> Situating Methodologies & Transdisciplinarity <i>Regina Römhild</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Tea & Coffee Stretch Break
11:30 - 13:00	Administrative Meeting/ Summer School Wrap-up/ Evaluation
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break and Closure of Summer School



## Keynote Speakers

### ***Professor Nokuzola Mndende***

*Nelson Mandela University, and Founder, Icamagu Institute*



Professor Nokuzola Mndende is an adjunct professor in the Sociology and Anthropology department. With an extensive career in the areas of African Culture, Feminist/Womanist theology, African Spirituality, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, she is leader in Africa-Centred Knowledge Systems. Dr Mndende received her PhD in 2002 from the University of Cape Town, specialising in African Traditional Religion. She is a qualified diviner/Spirit medium (iGqirha). Dr Mndende thus straddles between two systems of thought as uGqirha (Dr) and iGqirha (qualified diviner) and uses the combination of these two systems to educate and consult for the national government, media houses, and legal fraternity on issues regarding indigenous institutions of

health, gender, and religious systems. Currently she produces Ibuzwa Kwabaphambili (Ask the Elderly), a radio programme on Umhlobo Wenene FM, that won the Liberty National Radio Award in 2017.

She is a first representative of African Religion of the Religious Broadcasting Panel of the SABC and presenter of African indigenous theology at Umhlobo Wenene FM. Dr Mndende was also a member of Parliament in the South African National Assembly between 1999 and 2003, and a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Religion in Education. She is a part-time Commissioner to the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and member of the advisory team that drafted the National Curriculum Statement (syllabus) on Religious Studies. She is an author and co-author of more than 15 journal articles, book chapters and children's storybooks. Dr Mndende is team member of the NIHSS Project titled "Maternal Legacies of Knowledge and rethinking of the Eastern Cape"

#### **Topic of Keynote Address:**

African Traditional Religious notions of well-being, and healing in South Africa



# Keynote Speakers

## ***Professor Suvira Ramlall***

*School of Psychiatry, University of KwaZulu-Natal*



Suvira Ramlall is the Clinical Head of Specialised Psychiatry at King Dinuzulu Hospital Complex, Durban, and Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN). She serves on the KwaZulu Natal Provincial Technical Advisory Committee for Mental Health, is the immediate past President of the College of Psychiatrists, and a Member on the Education Committee of the Colleges of Medicine of SA. Over three decades of public service, she has worked closely with the District office, KZN Mental Health Directorate and the National Mental Health Directorate in policy and service development and implementation. With the South African Society of Psychiatrists, she serves on the national executive of the Public Sector Sub-Committee. During the pandemic, she was a member of the Technical Working Group for the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Covid 19.

She has published in local and international journals, co-edited a South African textbook on Talk Therapy and her latest book, *Inpowerment: Building*

*Mental and Emotional Resilience*, was released on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the Durban International Book Fair. She advocates for community mental health and co-manages the KZN Mental Health Advocacy Group which hosts the Annual Mental Health Symposium in July and the Mental Health Walk and Fair in October, for the last 9 years.

Her interest in spirituality and mental health are both personal and professional. Guided by her own personal journey and self growth, she has identified the importance of a spiritual dimension which is lacking in the approach to mental wellbeing as well in the medical model of health and wellbeing. She has written a chapter titled *From Psyche to Soul: Psychotherapy & Spirituality in Talk Therapy Toolkit*; supervised a Masters study on Spirituality amongst medical students and co-authored a manuscript on a nationwide panel study on religious involvement and depression in South Africa. She has addressed national psychiatrist forums on Spirituality, mental health and psychotherapy and adopts a holistic biopsychosocial-spiritual-cultural framework in her clinical work and teaching related to health, mental health and mental disorders.

### **Topic of Keynote Address:**

**Mental Health: A Bio-Spiritual Question for Identity and Meaning**