

Rev Dr Buhle Mpofo Curriculum Vitae



*PhD: University of KwaZulu-Natal Pietermaritzburg
Master of Philosophy (MPhil): Stellenbosch University
Post Graduate Diploma in Mgt. of HIV/AIDS: Stellenbosch
Bachelor of Theology (Hons) University of KwaZulu-Natal PMB*

Summary of Skills/Objectives

Educator, Researcher, Minister of Religion, Project Manager and Social Transformation Ecumenist
with interest in Religion and Migration studies

Summary of Profile

Buhle Mpofo is a lecturer of Religion and Mission studies within the faculty of Theology and Region at the University of Pretoria. Mpofo did his Post-Doctoral Fellowship with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Religion, Classics and Philosophy and is also an ordained minister with the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) with a background in ecumenical involvement after he served as the General Secretary of the African Communion of Reformed Churches (ACRC). His academic focus has been on the interface of religion and migration within the context of mission studies where he continues to explore how these trajectories impact on social and economic transformation. As an ordained minister, Mpofo has 15 years' experience in pastoral care, project management, events coordination, project evaluation and community development and has published book chapters and journal articles after attending conferences and presenting papers, reviewing publications and serving as a member of the editorial committee.

Personal Profile

Gender: Male
Languages spoken: Zulu, English, Ndebele, Shona, Xhosa, Sotho
Resident Status: South African Permanent Resident
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Note: Other personal details can be made available on request.

Education

- 2016 University of Kwa-Zulu Natal
Doctor of Philosophy (Practical/Systematic Theology-Religion and Migration studies)

Dissertation: When the people move, the Church moves: A critical exploration of the interface between Migration and Theology through a Missiological study of selected congregations within the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa in Johannesburg.

- 2010 University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)
Master of Philosophy (MPhil) - Management of HIV and AIDS

Dissertation: Abstinence related training needs for youth within the context of HIV and AIDS at New Castle Uniting Presbyterian Church

- 2009 University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)
Post Graduate Diploma in HIV/AIDS Management (PDM)
- 2006 University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (South Africa)
Bachelor of Theology Honours Degree (B.Th. Hon) Practical Theology Major
- 2003 University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (South Africa)
Bachelor of Theology Degree (BTh.)

Computer Skills

- Excel, Power Point, Word, Internet Explorer etc
- Skype, LinkedIn, FB, Zoom, etc
- Google Teams, YouTube
- Microsoft meetings

Publications and conference papers

Mpofu B. (2020). . Reimagining African Christian mission: shifting religious rituals, practices and interpretations in the South African post-covid-19 context. [Entangled Religions abstract submitted July 2020.\(Awaiting confirmation\)](#)

Mpofu B. (2020). From Post-Doc to lockdown Teaching and Learning: Pedagogical lessons for Religion and Mission in the changing post-COVID-19 context. [Flexible Futures Virtual Conference Paper, 4 August 2020.](#)

Mpofu B. (2020). 'It is now in your hands': South Africa's dilemma for religion and governance in the changing post - COVID-19 context [Under Review with HTS \(Accepted\)](#)

Mpofu B. (2020). It didn't have to be like this: Some perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 on mission of the church [Under Review with HTS](#)

Mpofu B. (2020). Reimagining Easter: Toward a post-COVID-19 transformative theology of sacraments [Under Review with Alternation \(Follow up with Prof. H Moyo\)](#)

Mpofu B. and Settler F (2020). This is where I live, eat and sleep: contours of resistance among migrant women and their implications for Christian social practice in Southern Africa. [Under Review with Religions. \(Follow up with Prof Settler\)](#)

Mpofu B. and Settler F (2020). Xenophobic encounters... to be renamed..(Follow up with Prof Settler)

Mpofu B. (2020). Reimagining Marginality: Covid-19 and the changing fortunes of South Africa's foreign migrants. *CWM INSIGHT June 2020*, p 55-58 Available at: <https://www.cwmission.org/insight-june-is-here/>

Mpofu B. (2019). Migration, xenophobia and resistance to xenophobia and socio-economic exclusion in the aftermath of South African *Rainbowism*. *Alternation* 26,1 (2019)

Mpofu B. (2019). Navigating changing cultural landscapes: a quest for identity and belonging among migrant children and youth in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. *Accepted for publication with Alternation (Acceptance letter available (Follow up with Prof Moyo).*

Mpofu B. (2019). Theologies of Belonging and Emerging Transnational Identities in Southern Africa. *Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, Germany*. Online copy available at: www.legimi.pl.

Mpofu, B. (2018). Church as Hostile, Host or Home: Sociological and Theological Perspectives on Migration in Johannesburg, South Africa. *Alternation Journal*, (22), 103-118. Available at: <https://journals.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/soa/article/view/1222>.

Mpofu, B. (2018). Liturgy and migration: A Missiological critique into the lived experiences of African Migrants within the Transnational Spaces of Worship in Johannesburg. (Chapter 7 128 148) in a book; *Liturgy and Identity: African Religio-Cultural and Ecumenical Perspectives*, Siwila L.C & Hewitt R (eds), Cluster Publications. Available at: <https://clusterpublications.com/ecumenism/168-liturgy-identity.html>.

Mpofu B. (2018). Economic Inclusion: A paradigm shift from the radical economic transformation (RET) in the context of xenophobia in South Africa. *Advances in Politics and Economic* Vol. 1, No. 2, 2018. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/ape.v1n2p126>, DOI:10.22158/ape.v1n2p126.

Mpofu Buhle (2018). Xenophobic encounters: sociological perspectives on the experience of migration in South Africa. *Sociology International Journal*, Volume 2 Issue 6 – 2018 655–660. DOI: 10.15406/sij.2018.02.00116. Available at: <https://medcraveonline.com/SIJ/SIJ-02-00116.pdf>.

Mpofu, B. & Settler, F. (2017). The Limits of Social Responsibility with Respect to Religion And Migration in South Africa. *Journal for the Study of Religion* 30, 2:12-31. Available at: <http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/jsr/v30n2/02.pdf> 12-31 Online ISSN 2413-3027.

Mpofu, B (2012) Unwelcome strangers: The suffering of migrants and refugees as an ecumenical global Challenge for the 21st Century GETI. Available at: www.nationalcouncilofchurches.us/docs/GETI-BuhleMpofu.pdf.

Articles in Progress

Mpofu B. (2020). Pedagogical lessons for Religion and Mission in the changing post-COVID-19 context (*Upcoming*).

Settler and Mpofu (2020). (*Upcoming*).

Published Books

Mpofu, B. (2017). *The Golden City We Built Together: Theological and Sociological perspectives on the experience of migration in Johannesburg, South Africa*. Lambert Publishing. Germany. <https://www.amazon.com/Golden-City-built-together-Sociological/dp/3330046392>

Current book project in progress

The Post-decolonial Theologian: Envisioning Mission in Contemporary Africa
Migration, religion and identity in Southern Africa.

Academic Conferences

4 August 2020 Flexible Futures Online Conference paper presentation. *From Post Doc to teaching during COVID-19 lockdown; Pedagogical lessons for Religion and Mission in the changing post-COVID-19 context*

- 2019 WCRC/ACRC Seminar and Celebration of 15 years of the Accra Confession, Nairobi Kenya, 8-16 November 2019 (Responsible for the record of proceedings).
 - 2019 Healing of Memory conference, Institute for Healing of Memories, Durban, 12-14 July.
 - 2019 Artificial Intelligence and Pastoral Mission, CWM DARE, Taipei, Taiwan. 19-22.
 - 2019 Migration and inter-cultural mission, Abedimelech Institute, Pietermaritzburg 11-12 June
 - 2018 Current Migration & Religion: A Transnational Discourse, University of Basel 28-30th June
 - 2017 Discourses of resistance among women on the move and their implications for Christian practice and mission in Southern Africa, UKZN School of Religion, Classics & Philosophy.
 - 2017 *Radical Discernment and Radical Engagement CWM, Bangkok Thailand, 27 June.*
 - 2017 Religion, Gender and Sexuality in Africa. Texts, Discourse Practice. University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, 22 May 2017. (Theologies of resistance)
 - 2016 *Church as Host, Home or Hostile: Theological and Sociological perspectives on the Experience of migration*, Durban, January 2016
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Ecumenical involvement and conferences

- 2017 Gender consultation, African Communion of Reformed Churches, Lusaka Zambia
 - 2016 Poverty, crime and violence, Nairobi Kenya
 - 2015 African Communion of Reformed Churches consultation, Togo consultation.
 - 2014 African Communion of Reformed Churches consultation, Kampala Uganda Consultation
 - 2013 African Communion of Reformed Churches consultation, Kigali Rwanda.
 - 2012 Global Theological Institute (GETI) & World Council of Churches, South Korea.
 - 2011 WCRC Regional Coordinators consultation, Geneva Switzerland.
 - Council for World Mission Inaugural Assembly, Ayr Scotland.
 - 2004 Council for World Mission Global Youth Summit delegate, Johannesburg SA.
 - Youth in Mission program, Johannesburg and Madagascar
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Work Experience

2017- Current: Post-Doctoral Fellow (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

- Co-Teaching, Research and Supervision of Post-graduate research

- Attending conferences and presenting papers
- Publication of articles and conducting field work
- Helping students formulate research proposals and design data collection instruments

2014 – 2017 Minister in Charge: Merebank Presbyterian Church, Durban

- Church administration and Community development programs
- Pastoral work, training counsellors & Home-Based Care givers
- Community mobilization and development

Reason for leaving: *Appointment to a Post -Doctoral Post at the University of KwaZulu –Natal*

2007 – 2014 Health and Wellness Programs Coordinator: UPCSA Central Office, Johannesburg

- Training of Trainers and Managing Health and wellness programs
- Coordinating the work of African Communion of Reformed Churches (ACRC)
- Research, Office administration and Project management
- Developing and implementing an HIV/AIDS Policy
- Compiling financial and narrative reports, and writing project proposals
- Working with Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and Most at Risk Populations (MARPS)
- Addressing gender-based violence and abuse of women and children
- Conducting needs-based training, advocacy, networking, education and leadership development

Reason for leaving: *Completion of donor funded Projects and change in denominational focus*

2003 – 2007 Minister in Charge: Makokoba Presbyterian Church, Bulawayo

- Church administration and Community development programs
- Pastoral work, training counsellors & Home-Based Care givers
- Coordinator of HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation programs
- Member of Hope for a Child in Christ orphanage program
- Secretary of the Schools Board (UPCSA South West Region)
- Gender research officer for Christian Aids Taskforce (CAT)

Reason for leaving: *Appointment to the UPCSA Central Office in Johannesburg*

1994-2000 Turner Machinist (Dunlop Zimbabwe Limited)

Reason for leaving: *Change in career after accepting call into UPCSA ministry*

Other activities

- 2011 – 2015 Presentations at Post graduate seminars and Cohorts
- 2011 - 2018 General Secretary of the African Communion of Reformed Churches
- 2007 – 2013 Training of Trainers Manual for Addressing HIV & AIDS Stigma
- 2013 - 2014 Church and Society in the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
- 2012 - 2014 EMPACT Compassionate Churches Campaign Training Manual

Membership and Editorial Review Positions

2020– Applied for membership with the South African Society of Practical Theologians

2019- Current: Member of the Missiological Society of Southern Africa

2018- Current: Reviewer with *ALTERNATION Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of the Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa*. Editor: Prof JA Smit Telephone: (031) 260-7290 Telephone: 031-260-3120 Email: smitj@ukzn.ac.za

2018 – Current: Member of the Editorial Team for the *Journal: Advances in Politics and Economics*

Editor: Wanda Petty, 445 S. Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90071 Tel: (626)513-2983 Email: ape@scholink.org

2017- 2019 Research, publishing, teaching and co-supervision

- Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, Religion and Social Transformation (with a focus on migration studies), Religion and Governance, Field work, Data collection and Data analysis.

Community Involvement

- 2018-2020 Presbytery ministry committee member
- 2018- current: Interim moderator of Thembalihle UPCSA congregation, Luganda Pinetown
- 2018 -current: Volunteer Facilitator with the Institute for Healing of Memories & Abed Melech Institute
- 2016 Acting Presbytery Clerk (Presbytery of eThekweni)
- 2015 Coordinated an intervention community program facilitating engagement and support for displaced foreign migrants during the violent xenophobic attacks in Merebank, Durban.
- 2014 Camp La Thuso Board of Trustees. Community initiative providing life skills development for Youth in the East rand, Johannesburg
- 2011 Facilitating community dialogue meeting for “*abahlali bemjondolo*” (Shack Dwellers Association) in Cloverdene informal Settlement, after violent evictions and protests

References

1. Dr Federico Settler
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2. Songe Chibambo
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3. Rev Lungile Mpetsheni
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