



The New Testament Society of Southern Africa



Annual Meeting: Call for Papers

9–12 April 2017

Stellenbosch University

South Africa

We are pleased to announce the Call for Papers for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa (NTSSA), which will take place at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, from 9–12 April 2017. Stellenbosch is located in one of the most beautiful parts of South Africa. The purpose of the NTSSA is to encourage, develop, and support scholarship and research in the field of New Testament Studies and related disciplines in general (such as Early Jewish and Christian Studies), and specifically within the Southern African context, but with longstanding international links, to stimulate effective teaching, to promote publication in the field, and to offer its members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development. The society also strives for sensitivity and inclusivity regarding race, gender and disabilities. The society successfully implemented a postgraduate affiliation, which provides opportunity for young scholars to share and develop their research. *Neotestamentica* is the annual scholarly journal of the society. Every year at the NTSSA Annual Meeting scholars from Africa and abroad come together to share research and network in research projects. The Society therefore invites scholars in the relevant fields to submit a proposal to present a paper at the NTSSA Annual Meeting in 2017. Each year there is a conference theme, although papers do not need to fit the theme.



NTSSA Annual Meeting Theme:

Pauline Perspectives, Then and Now

The 2017 NTSSA Annual Meeting will be directed by the subgroup for Pauline Studies. Pauline research, in its more recent manifestations, is characterised by “perspectives”, including the “New Perspective”, the “Fresh Perspective”, and the “Radical New Perspective” on Paul, to name but a few prominent and popular varieties. At the 2017 NTSSA Annual Meeting, and in the Pauline subgroup in particular, the focus will be not so much on any specific perspective or, for that matter, scholarly methodology or approaches. Rather, the aim of the conference is to create room to explore the reasons for the “perspectival” approach to the Pauline letters and its legacy(-ies), together with its impact on (future) Pauline studies. James Dunn’s 1983 article in the *Bulletin of John Rylands Library* set a trend in Pauline studies, which has remained influential. Using the notion of perspectives on Paul which Dunn restricted to the singular and the status of new, the notion of “perspectives” in Pauline scholarship has endured. Pauline scholars remain fond of pitching their work with regard to old or new or radical or various other perspectives.

Perspectives in Pauline scholarship—like quests in historical Jesus research, or methodological approaches generally—are not merely heuristic frameworks, although they are that as well. The wider reaching significance and effects of “perspectival” Pauline work deserve further attention. Often various frameworks are integrated, or at least aspects of various frameworks are used simultaneously. Without implying that using these components at the same time means that they will or even that they ought to clash, or that they cannot be of (mutual) beneficial influence, it remains a question which frameworks make for cooperative ventures. Then again, what are the effects and impact of such multifaceted approaches on Pauline scholarship? So too, amidst a plethora of juxtaposed methodological approaches, primary perspectival leanings often remain discernible. At the 2017 meeting, papers in the Pauline subgroup will aim to explore these and other related questions.

In addition to invited speakers, proposals for papers exploring perspectival trends in Pauline scholarship or specific themes impacted upon by perspectival trends, and availing themselves of traditional theological but also of postcolonial, gender critical, Jewish and other perspectives are invited.

Enquiries can be addressed to the Pauline Subgroup leaders, Jeremy Punt (jpunt@sun.ac.za) and Francois Wessels (francoiswesselso2@gmail.com).



Other Themes and Short Papers

In addition to the main theme of the conference, the following subgroups also welcome paper proposals relevant to the fields covered:

1. Gender and Sexuality in/and the New Testament (Contact Lilly Nortjé-Meyer: lillynm@uj.ac.za);
2. Hermeneutics of Early Christianities (Contact Kobus Kok: kobus.kok@etf.edu; or Zoro Dube: zoro.dube@up.ac.za);
3. Early Christian Studies (Contact Chris de Wet: dwetcl@unisa.ac.za; or Gerhard van den Heever: vdheega@unisa.ac.za);
4. Mysticism in the Johannine Writings (Contact Paul Decock: decock@sjti.ac.za);
5. Jesus and the Gospels (Contact Marius Nel: mjnel@sun.ac.za; or Llewellyn Howes: llewellynhowes@gmail.com);

Individual proposals for short papers (which do not fit into any of the above themes) are also welcome. These proposals may be sent to the Chair of the NTSSA directly: Chris de Wet (dwetcl@unisa.ac.za). Closing date for proposals: **13 February 2017**.

We also welcome new members every year. For more details about membership, please visit the NTSSA website: www.newtestament.co.za, or contact the NTSSA Secretary: Lilly Nortjé-Meyer (lillynm@uj.ac.za). For general enquiries regarding the Society or the Annual Meeting, please also contact the Secretary at the email given above. For enquiries about the venue at Stellenbosch University, and related logistics, please contact Marius Nel (mjnel@sun.ac.za) and Helette van der Westhuizen (hvdwest@sun.ac.za). With limited options for accommodation in town, an early booking is advised; possibilities are easily found on the Internet. The address of the venue where the meeting will take place is 171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch, 7600. We look forward to seeing you in 2017 in Stellenbosch!

Chris L. de Wet: *Chair of the NTSSA*

Lilly Nortjé-Meyer: *Secretary*

Erastus Jonker: *Treasurer*

Zoro Dube: *Officer for Development*

Kobus Kok: *Media Officer*

Petra Dijkhuizen: *Editor of Neotestamentica*