



### An international collaborative working on religion within health and community systems

Seeking to strengthen evidence on the functioning of religiously-inspired health institutions and communities within their contextualized health systems, especially in development settings

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### IRHAP-NEWS OCTOBER 2016

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### GENERAL NEWS

There will be IRHAP-linked work presented at the *Health Systems Global Symposium* in Vancouver in November 2016. In particular an organised session panel: *'Resilient health systems buffers? The everyday role of non-state (faith-based) African health providers'* on 17 Nov, 11:00-12:30, Room 19. Join us if you are there or follow via the website feeds: <http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2016/>

The IRHAP website continues to get an overhaul based on the requests and responses from the network. Our next project is to start putting the IRHAP database (now with over 4000 items on religion and public health) up on the website, after which we will start loading country profiles (briefs showing faith-based health provision by country).

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### MEETING NEWS

#### ALREADY HAPPENED, LOOK AT THE REPORT:

In July 2015 there was a meeting in Washington DC called *'Religion and Sustainable Development: Building Partnerships to End Extreme Poverty'*. Look for the report at the *Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities* website - <http://jiliflc.com/>

In February 2016, there was a conference titled *'Partners for Change'* in Berlin – at which the new *International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development* (PaRD) was launched. PaRD brings together bilateral donor countries, multilateral development agencies and civil society organisations such as religious organisations to harness the positive impact of religion in sustainable development and humanitarian assistance. Conference materials can be found at <http://www.partner-religion-development.org/>

#### WATCH THIS SPACE:

The *8th Biennial African Christian Health Associations Conference* will be held from the 27<sup>th</sup> February to the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Maseru, Lesotho. The title of this Biennial is *'Building Partnership for FBO Health Systems Strengthening towards Achieving the SDGs'*. This will be a particularly eventful meeting as many CHAs in Africa are celebrating their 50 year anniversaries – see <http://africachap.org>

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### RESEARCH NEWS

UNAIDS and PEPFAR have launched a two-year initiative to work with FBOs and strengthen their capacity to respond to HIV. IRHAP-partners are engaged in several of the implementation and research components of this work – for example Emory (IHP) are leading the academic consortium, and ACHAP is engaged in one of the health systems strengthening strategies. See <http://www.pepfar.gov/press/247404.htm> or [http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/october/20150930\\_PEPFAR\\_FBO](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/october/20150930_PEPFAR_FBO)

The *Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research*, out of the *World Health Organisation*, have funded three health systems research projects looking at faith-based providers and their contribution to Universal Health Coverage, in Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania. This research is running from 2015 to 2018, so we are now at the halfway mark. See [www.irhap.uct.ac.za](http://www.irhap.uct.ac.za)

The publishers of *Development in Practice* have agreed to a special double edition in July 2017 focused on Religion and Health in Development Contexts. Jill Olivier will be guest editing – watch this space for more information.

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### PROFILED IRHAP-LINKED PUBLICATIONS

**New Journal Edition - Faith and Sustainable Development** (edited by Jill Olivier). In September 2016, the *Review of Faith and International Affairs* (RFIA) released a special edition focused on religion and sustainable development. The collection includes (among others): Introduction by UNAIDS' Michel Sidibe <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2016.1215848>, Innovative Faith-Community Responses to HIV and AIDS by Jill Olivier & Sally Smith <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2016.1215839>, Religion in Sustainable Development by James R. Cochrane <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2016.1215818>, Lessons from the Faith-Driven Response to the West Africa Ebola Epidemic by Christo Greyling, Jolly Ann Maulit, Susan Parry, David Robinson, Sally Smith, Anne Street & Robert Vitillo <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2016.1215829>, and Interventions with Local Faith Communities on Immunization in Development contexts by Jill Olivier <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2016.1215843>



**New Book - Stakeholder Health: Insights from New Systems of Health** (Edited by Teresa Cutts and James Cochrane). The book was developed in 2016 with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a review of best practices in the areas of community health improvement, as well as clinical and community partnerships, spanning eleven chapters. The chapters range from a review of the social determinants or drivers of health to leadership for new partnerships between health systems and communities, relational information technology, community health navigation, financial aspects of partnering with community in a new 'social return on investment' model, leadership, implementing resiliency models integrated across hospitals and the broader community. Some chapters can be downloaded free at <https://stakeholderhealth.org/free-sh-book-chapters/>

**New Journal Edition – The Lancet:** In July 2015, The Lancet published a series on faith-based health care. The Executive Summary states that "this Series argues that building on the extensive experience, strengths, and capacities of faith-based organisations offers a unique opportunity to improve health outcomes" <http://www.thelancet.com/series/faith-based-health-care>. The series includes (among others): Understanding the roles of faith-based health-care providers in Africa: review of the evidence with a focus on magnitude, reach, cost, and satisfaction by Jill Olivier et al [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60251-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60251-3), Controversies in faith and health care by Andrew Tomkins et al [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60252-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60252-5), and Strengthening of partnerships between the public sector and faith-based groups by Jean Duff and Warren Buckingham DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60250-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60250-1)

**New Book - Keeping Body and Soul Together** (edited by Bev Haddad): Bev Haddad completed her collation of Steve de Gruchy's work in the field of Theology and Development. *Keeping Body and Soul Together: Reflections by Steve de Gruchy on Theology and Development* includes his most strategic work in the field and comprises of academic essays, conference presentations, and workshop presentations to church leadership. The volume is divided into five sections: 'Pursuing the Dialogue' introduces some key theological concerns; 'Engaging Development Visions, Conceptualising Frameworks' demonstrates an engagement with key development visions and the emergent frameworks; 'Theologising Economics, Ecology, and Food Sovereignty' addresses these development issues theologically; 'Theologising Health' takes up one of the key themes of his later work; and 'Steve's Final Word' includes two essays dealing with issues of water which were some of his final published work. [http://srpc.ukzn.ac.za/news/15-03-12/Keeping\\_Body\\_and\\_Soul\\_Together](http://srpc.ukzn.ac.za/news/15-03-12/Keeping_Body_and_Soul_Together)

**New Book - Dignity, freedom and grace** (Paterson, Gillian, and Callie Long, eds. 2016. *Dignity, freedom and grace: Christian perspectives on HIV, AIDS, and human rights*. Geneva: World Council of Churches Publications). Forty years after the advent of HIV and AIDS, many people around the world living with HIV still endure assaults on their dignity and basic human rights—from stigma and discrimination to denial of legal protection and even medical care. Bringing together people living with, working with, researching, or personally affected by HIV or AIDS, this volume developed by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) and its global partners draws directly from on-the-ground experiences elicited from frontline actors in the churches and agencies. Their insights and reflections are always lively, sometimes uncomfortable, and often deeply moving. *Dignity, Freedom, and Grace* broaches the truly tough questions faced by those with HIV and those who work directly or programmatically with them. It offers strong, substantive discussions of the meaning of human rights, its relation to the more religious language of church traditions, the contextual wisdom of key populations most at risk for HIV, and the best practices and theological reflection of Christian churches. <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/publications/dignity-freedom-and-grace>

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### WHAT WE ARE READING

(A selection of things that have recently caught our eye – see the IRHAP website for more)

Bischoff, Alexander. 2016. "Establishing a faith-based organisation nursing school within a national primary health care programme in rural Tanzania: an auto-ethnographic case study." *Global Health Action* 9: 29404 <http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/gha.v9.29404>

Manthalu, Gerald, Deokhee Yi, Shelley Farrar, and Dominic Nkhoma. 2016. "The effect of user fee exemption on the utilization of maternal health care at mission health facilities in Malawi." *Health Policy and Planning* 31 (9):1184-1192. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czw050>

Namakula, Justine, Sophie Witter, and Freddie Ssenooba. 2016. "Health worker experiences of and movement between public and private not-for-profit sectors—findings from post-conflict Northern Uganda." *Human Resources for Health* 14 (1):1-11. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12960-016-0114-y>

Palmer, Jennifer J., Alice Gilbert, Michelle Choy, and Karl Blanchet. 2016. "Circumventing 'free care' and 'shouting louder': using a health systems approach to study eye health system sustainability in government and mission facilities of north-west Tanzania." *Health Research Policy and Systems* 14 (1):1-15. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12961-016-0137-9>

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