



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

CALL FOR PAPERS

**Religion and Engaged Scholarship for Ethical Governance:
Empowering Students, Theologians, and Religious Leaders
to Transform Politics and Confront Corruption**

ABSTRACT
DEADLINE

**30
Oct
2026**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Religion and Engaged Scholarship for Ethical Governance Conference brings together scholars, postgraduate students, faith leaders, policymakers, practitioners, and community partners to explore how religion and engaged scholarship can contribute to ethical governance, public accountability, and social transformation.

The conference seeks to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and community realities by promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on corruption, leadership, justice, governance, theological education, and public engagement. Particular emphasis is placed on empowering students, theologians, and religious leaders to become catalysts for ethical leadership and sustainable change within African and global contexts.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: 30 October 2026
- Conference date: 22 to 23 April 2027

Venue

- Faculty of Theology and Religion
University of the Free State, Bloemfontein,

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts: 250–300 words (background, aim, methodology, relevance and conclusion)
- Include: Author name(s), institutional affiliation, email, and short bio (100–150 words)
- Full papers will be requested for conference proceedings and an edited volume
- Submission deadline: 30 October 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 30 November 2026
- Submission email: palikj@ufs.ac.za

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

This conference invites scholars, postgraduate students, clergy, practitioners, and community leaders to submit papers that critically and constructively engage the intersections of religion, engaged scholarship, ethical governance, and political transformation.

Contributions are encouraged to engage with the complexities identified in current scholarship, including the ambivalent role of religion in society, the persistence of corruption, the gaps in theological education, and the urgent need for leadership formation that is both contextually relevant and socially transformative.

We particularly welcome contributions that:

- Critically analyse the role of religion in sustaining or challenging systems of power, inequality, and corruption
- Explore innovative models of engaged scholarship that connect academia, theology, and community transformation
- Examine empirical cases of faith-based interventions in governance, anti-corruption, and social justice
- Address gender, youth, and marginalisation within religious and political contexts
- Propose practical and theoretical frameworks for ethical leadership and political engagement
- Engage interdisciplinary and interreligious perspectives on governance and public ethics
- Offer curriculum and pedagogical innovations for theological and higher education institutions

Types of Contributions:

- Empirical research (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods)
- Theoretical and conceptual papers
- Case studies and practice-based reflections
- Policy analyses and interdisciplinary studies

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/theology>

RSVP- https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/2027_FESCO | palikj@ufs.ac.za | mogwasiS@ufs.ac.za

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