

Online Conference – University of Cape Town

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Moral Economies of Religious Reform – In Africa and Elsewhere

Convened by

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Moral economies have been studied as alternative forms of community in the modern world. Against particularly capitalism, they represent a different kind of community cohesion and moral responsibility. There are relatively few studies on the moral economies of religious reform. By the latter is meant concerted attempts by a prominent individual or a group to introduce significant or manifest change in a religious tradition and/or society. Religious reforms are sources and resources for societal transformation on individual or group levels. Reform in societies across the globe seems to offer new ways and visions of social or “the good” life in the context of neoliberal capitalism or state under-performance. Some suggest that they seem to be made for the neo-liberal world.

What kind of visions of moral economies do religious reforms promise and offer in the context of authoritarian states that increasingly lack authoritativeness? How do they translate key terms and practices, discourses, and concepts from their histories and theologies to offer alternative moral economies? How are these economies sustained and perpetuated in time, space and place? And how do they compare with similar religious and non-religious moral economies locally and globally? Do they promote, critique, resist or contest neoliberal economies in religious form? How do they do this and how successful are they?

We invite scholars who are interested in religious reform and moral economies, to send us abstracts for papers to be presented at an online conference. We are open to detailed case studies focussing on textual hermeneutics, ethnographies, biographical trajectories and everyday experience of moral economies.

We are planning an online conference, and invite researchers to send detailed abstracts (200 words) to [Phumelele Nkwakhwa \(NKWPHU006@myuct.ac.za\)](mailto:Phumelele Nkwakhwa (NKWPHU006@myuct.ac.za)).

References:

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