

## Call for Papers

Department of Theology and Religious Studies

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We would like to invite local and international scholars to submit papers to be presented at a workshop on the theme *“Intergrating Social Science Research Methodologies into African Theological and Religious Studies Research”*. This research methodological activity is intended for a book to be used in the teaching of an upcoming theological and religious studies programme titled African Spiritualities, African Cultural Values and Biomedical Approaches to Healing and Health in the Context of Covid-19 and HIV and Aids in Malawi. This is part of an international research initiative by Nagel Institute on the subject of ***Engaging African Realities from Sociological and African Theological Perspectives***.

**Background:** The workshop is specifically interested in showcasing scholarly papers on how social science research methodologies can be intergrated into traditional theological and religious studies methodologies, especially ethnological approaches that would bring innovation and creativity in the intended theological curriculum. There is a growing need for theology and religious studies students in Africa to engage in interdisciplinary research because of the ever-changing contexts in which relevant skills are demanded. This requires that the Department of Theology and Religious Studies must have a vibrant interdisciplinary research methodology course to meet this demand. This will reduce resistance from employers in engaging graduates from theology and religious studies, a field which is at the verge of becoming irrelevant in addressing questions facing the modern Malawian society.

**Thematic areas:** To avoid generalization of the papers, the contributors should link their research methodologies to the following questions or thematic areas:

- How best could the academy investigate African Traditional Values and their impact on an African theology of Health and Healing in the context of HIV and AIDS and Covid-19?
- In what way do African Spiritualities impact Health and Healing in the context of Covid-19 and HIV and AIDS?
- How do societies influence people’s decisions to adhere to biomedical approaches to health and healing in the context of Covid-19 and HIV and AIDS?

The papers will undergo a peer review process by blind reviewers for them to be accepted for presentation and plans are underway to select some of them for publication in a special issue of a journal thereafter. The expected length of the papers is 5 000 to 8 000 words.

**Submission Date:** 29th of February, 2022.

**Venue of the Workshop:** Mzuzu SunBird Hote.l

**Accommodation:** In case of need, each participant is expected to arrange his or her own accommodation and pay for it.

**Date of the Workshop:** This workshop is for one day. It will start at 8.00 am and finish at 4.00 Pm. The workshop date is 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.