

THADDEUS METZ: ABBREVIATED CV
(SEPTEMBER 2026)

Department of Philosophy, Humanities Building
University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20
Hatfield, Pretoria 0028
SOUTH AFRICA

+27-79-839-2989 (cell)
th.metz@up.ac.za (email)
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thaddeusmetz/> (LinkedIn)
<https://www.up.ac.za/philosophy/prof-thaddeus-metz> (Dept site)

HIGHEST EDUCATION OBTAINED

- PhD; Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University; Thesis: 'The Foundations of Social Contract Theory'; 1997

CURRENT POSITIONS

- Research Professor, University of Pretoria Department of Philosophy (since 2020)
- Editor-in-Chief, *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell) (since 2025)

AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- Ethics, Value Theory, and Meaning in Life (esp. African and Western)
- Political and Legal Philosophy (esp. African and Western)
- Philosophy of Religion (esp. African and Western)
- Comparative Philosophy (esp. African, Confucian, Islamic, South American, Western)

SOME HONOURS

- Awarded '[A1' rating](#) as 'Leading International Scholar'; South African National Research Foundation; 2025-30
- Designated one of '[The World's Top 2% Scientists](#)'; Scopus; 2025
- Designated one of '[The World's Top 50 Thinkers](#)'; *Prospect Magazine* (UK); 2020

SOME CITATION FACTS

- [Google Scholar](#) total: 10,500+; h-index: 46
- [47th most highly cited philosopher](#) out of 13,700 (in Scopus publications; 2025)
- 11 articles listed as all-time top-ten most cited (some in journals with 50+ volumes such as the [Journal of Moral Education](#), [The Philosophical Forum](#), [The Journal of Chinese Philosophy](#), and [Religious Studies](#))

RECENT BOOKS

- *A Relational Theory of Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2026)
- *A Relational Moral Theory: African Ethics in and Beyond the Continent* (reprint/paperback version Oxford University Press, 2025); Chinese translation with The Commercial Press, Ltd [商务印书馆], 2025
- *What Makes a Life Meaningful? A Debate* (with J Seachris; Routledge, 2024); Vietnamese translation with NXB Kim Dong, 2026
- *African Philosophy of Religion and Western Monotheism* (with K Loughheed and M Molefe; Cambridge University Press, 2024)
- *Jurisprudence in an African Context*, 2nd edn (with D Bilchitz and O Oyowe; Oxford University Press, 2024)

ESSAYS

- [340+ chapters and articles](#), with sole-authored articles in international journals that include: *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Law and Philosophy*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *Journal of Moral Education*, *Ethics*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Studies*, *The Monist*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Religious Studies*, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *Faith and Philosophy*, *Philosophy East and West*, and *Journal of Global Ethics*.

- 60+ essays reprinted, sometimes with translations into one of 14 languages (viz., Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Igbo, Japanese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese).

RECENT JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES

- Luís Cordeiro-Rodrigues, Cornelius Ewuoso, Joyline Gwara, and Jun Wang (eds) 'Thaddeus Metz, *A Relational Moral Theory: African Contributions to Global Ethical Thought*' *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (forthcoming; articles are available at the online first section)
- Kirk Loughheed (ed.) 'Thaddeus Metz's *A Relational Moral Theory*', *Social Theory and Practice* vol. 51, no. 2 (2025).
- Olatunji Oyeshile and Adeshina Afolayan (eds) 'On an African Moral Theory', *African Philosophical Inquiry* vol. 11 (2023).
- Paul Slama and Carien Smith (eds) 'The Meanings of Gods: Questions to Thaddeus Metz', *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* vol. 82, no. 4-5 (2021).

PRESENTATIONS

- 285+ professional talks, including 26 keynote addresses. Recent talks include those at the: Conference on Atheism and the Meaning of Life at Aix-Marseille University (France); Conference on Toward a Political Philosophy of Sport sponsored by the KU Leuven Hoover Ethical Initiatives (Belgium); Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life at Carleton University (Canada); Conference on Philanthropy and Human Flourishing at the LCC International University (Lithuania); Workshop on Relational Ethics in Technological Societies at ETH Zürich (Switzerland); and Conference on Bioethics Meets Political Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University (Poland).

SUPERVISION

- 100+ honours, master's, doctoral, and post-doctoral research projects supervised, with 20 PhDs having graduated under my supervision. Supervisees have come from more than a dozen countries beyond South Africa, including Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Barbados, Germany, Iran, Canada, and the UK. Supervised the first African woman from South Africa to get a PhD in philosophy as well as the first from Botswana to do so.

REFeree WORK

- Reviewed 280+ texts, mostly articles submitted to dozens of different journals, including *Mind*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Analysis*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Religious Studies*, *Ethics*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Social Philosophy and Policy*, and *Journal of Political Philosophy*. Have also reviewed about 45 book manuscripts/proposals for publishers such as Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Springer, Routledge, Wiley, Blackwell, Sage, Palgrave, and Bloomsbury.

BOOK ENDORSEMENTS

- Invited to provide 'shouts' ('blurbs') for nearly 40 books, including for works published by Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan, Springer, Rowman & Littlefield, Cambridge University Press, and Oxford University Press.

EXTERNAL SERVICE

- Consultancies have included: an essay on African ethics and reconciliation for the British Bible Society (UK); a multiauthored report on Gross National Happiness (Bhutan); chapters on ethics and meaning for a Macmillan Reference textbook (USA); and a report on African approaches to flourishing and education for the OECD (France). In addition, for the past several years, I have routinely served as a mentor, presenter, and workshop facilitator for the Department of Higher Education and Training Future Professors Programme (South Africa).

FUN FACT

- Featured as a clue on the nationally televised American game show [Jeopardy!](#): 'Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry written by Thaddeus Metz, or a movie co-written by John Cleese' was the answer to the question, 'What is The Meaning of Life?' (8 December 2016).