

THADDEUS METZ ABBREVIATED C.V.

FOCUS ON 2020–2024

CONTACT DETAILS

- Post: Department of Philosophy, Humanities Building, University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20, Hatfield, Pretoria 0028, South Africa
- Email: th.metz@up.ac.za
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ONLINE PRESENCE

- Departmental website: <https://www.up.ac.za/philosophy/article/2923571/preview>
- Bibliography with abstracts for 325+ publications: <https://tinyurl.com/y9o855vp>
- Bibliography with citations: <http://scholar.google.co.za/citations?hl=en&user=-iAbDVQAAAAJ>

HIGHEST EDUCATION OBTAINED

- Ph.D.; Philosophy; Cornell University; Dissertation Title: ‘The Foundations of Social Contract Theory’; January 1997

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

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

RESEARCH CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Journal Articles

Appearances in: *Ethics, Philosophy & Public Affairs, Journal of Political Philosophy, Res Publica, Review of Social Economy, Law & Philosophy, Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, Journal of Moral Education, Ethical Theory & Moral Practice, Mind, The Monist, American Philosophical Quarterly, Religious Studies, International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, Faith & Philosophy, Philosophy East & West, and Journal of Global Ethics.*

Citations

- [GoogleScholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=-iAbDVQAAAAJ) Total: 7200+; h-index: 39
- ‘Toward an African Moral Theory’, listed as the [fifth most cited article](#) since the 30+ year inception of the *Journal of Political Philosophy*; 2024

- ‘Confucianism and *Ubuntu*’, with D A Bell, listed as the [fifth most cited article](#) since the 45+ year inception of the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*; 2024
- ‘The African Ethic of Ubuntu/Botho’, with J B Gaie, listed as the [eighth most cited article](#) since the 50+ year inception of the *Journal of Moral Education*; 2024 (had been third most in 2022)
- [71st most highly cited philosopher](#) in the world in Scopus publications; 2020
- Cited in the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) for ten entries

Subject of Journal Symposia/Special Issues

- *The Philosophical Forum* (edited by Martin Odei Ajei and Richmond Kwesi) (forthcoming 2025)
- *Social Theory and Practice* (edited by Kirk Lougheed) (forthcoming 2024)
- *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (edited by Luís Cordeiro-Rodrigues, Cornelius Ewuoso, and Jun Wang) vol. 27 (forthcoming 2024; contributions posted on online first page)
- *African Philosophical Inquiry* (edited by Adeshina Afolayan) vol. 11 (2023)
- *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* (edited by Paul Slama and Carien Smith) vol. 82, nos. 4-5 (2021)
- *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (edited by Yujin Nagasawa) vol. 8, no. 2 (2016)
- *Journal of Philosophy of Life* (edited by Masahiro Morioka) vol. 5, no. 3 (2015); reprinted as *Reconsidering Meaning in Life: A Philosophical Dialogue with Thaddeus Metz* (Saitama, Japan: Waseda University, 2015; ISBN: 9784990866808)
- *South African Journal of Philosophy* (edited by Douglas Farland) vol. 26, no. 4 (2007)

Reprints/Translations

- 50+ different publications reprinted on 70+ occasions
- Works translated into 13 languages: Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese (simplified characters), Dutch, French, German, Igbo, Japanese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish (in progress), Turkish

Some Publication Firsts

- First book appealing to the African tradition of philosophy to appear with Oxford University Press in 25 years (since Kwame Gyekye’s 1997 *Tradition and Modernity*); in 2022
- First article on African philosophy to appear in *Mind* (founded in 1876); in 2021
- First article on African philosophy to appear in *The Monist* (founded in 1888); in 2021

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS/ASSOCIATESHIPS

- Fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF; membership by nomination and vote); 2012-present
- Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS; membership by invitation); 2009, 2011

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (from the past four years)

- University of Pretoria; Professor (Research Focus); September 2020-present
- University of Johannesburg; Distinguished Professor; January 2015-August 2020

SELECTED GRANTS, HONOURS, AND AWARDS (from the past four years)

- Retention Agreement; with the University of Pretoria; to recognize 'strategic value' and 'unique contribution as a highly productive researcher'; 2020-2025
- ['A1' Rating President's Award](#) ('Leading International Researcher'); from the South African National Research Foundation (NRF); designated 'a leading scholar in her/his field internationally for the high quality and wide impact of her/his recent research outputs'; 2019-2024
- Named one of ['The World's Top 50 Thinkers'](#); largely for bringing philosophical ideas from Africa to international audiences; *Prospect Magazine*; 2020
- Distinguished Professorship; to recognize 'professors of international standing who enjoy global recognition as outstanding leaders in their respective fields'; from the University of Johannesburg; 2015-2020

SELECTED BOOKS (from the past four years)

Sole Authored Monographs

- *A Relational Theory of Justice: African Political and Legal Philosophy in and Beyond the Continent* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, under contract; 143,000 word manuscript submitted 2023, and to be revised in response to reviewer comments in 2024).
- *A Relational Moral Theory: African Ethics in and Beyond the Continent* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).
 - 一种关系化的道德理论—从本土走向世界的非洲伦理学; translated into simplified Chinese characters by Nan Zhang, with Luis Rodrigues and Jun Wang serving as editors (Beijing: The Commercial Press, Ltd [商务印书馆], 2024; under contract).
 - Special issue of *The Philosophical Forum*, edited by Martin Odei Ajei and Richmond Kwesi; forthcoming (2025).
 - Special issue of *Social Theory and Practice*, edited by Kirk Lougheed; forthcoming (2024).
 - Special issue of *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, edited by Luis Rodrigues, Cornelius Ewuoso, and Jun Wang (2024; contributions have been posted in online first section).
 - Special issue of *African Philosophical Inquiry*, edited by Adeshina Afolayan, vol. 11 (2023) 13-150.
- *God, Soul and the Meaning of Life* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019).
 - خدا، روح و معنای زندگی; translated into Persian by Ashkan Roshan and posted in a repository of Persian texts on the philosophy of religion (https://negahehandisheh.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/persian_god-soul-and-the-meaning-of-life.pdf, 2021).
 - Special issue of the *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* titled 'Meanings of Gods; Questions to Thaddeus Metz', edited by Paul Slama and Carien Smith, vol. 82, nos. 4-5 (2021) 307-374.

Co-authored Monographs

- *African Philosophy of Religion and Western Monotheism*, with Kirk Lougheed and Motsamai Molefe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, under contract; manuscript accepted and to appear in 2024).
- *What Makes Life Meaningful? A Debate*, with Joshua Seachris (London: Routledge, 2024).

SELECTED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS (from the past three years, out of 300+ published since 2000)

- 'A Relational Theory of Dignity and Human Rights: An Alternative to Autonomy' *The Monist* vol. 107 (2024).
- 'Replies to Seven Critics of *A Relational Moral Theory*' (tentative title) *Social Theory and Practice* (special issue on Thaddeus Metz, *A Relational Moral Theory: African Ethics in and Beyond the Continent*) (2024).
- 'Grounding Distributive Justice on an Ideal Family: What Familial Norms Entail for Inequalities' in Ingrid Robeyns (ed.) *Economic and Ecological Inequalities from a Global Perspective* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024) ch. 10.
- 'Medicine and the Meaning of Life' in Alex Broadbent (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Medicine* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024) ch. 31.
- 'Holding Responsible in the African Tradition: Reconciliation Applied to Punishment, Compensation, and Trials' in Maximillian Kiener (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Responsibility* (London: Routledge, 2024) 380-392.
- 'Human Rights and African Communitarian Values' in Jesse Tomalty and Kerri Woods (eds) *Routledge Handbook for the Philosophy of Human Rights* (London: Routledge, 2024) ch. 8.
- 'What Africa Can Bring to the World' in Tayeb Chenntouf (ed.) *General History of Africa, Volume IX: Global Africa* (Geneva: UNESCO, 2024) ch. 22.
- 'How African Conceptions of God Bear on Life's Meaning' *Religious Studies* vol. 59, no. 2 (2023) 340-354.
- 'How to Do African Ethics: Replies to Six Critics of *A Relational Moral Theory*' *African Philosophical Inquiry* (special issue on Thaddeus Metz, *A Relational Moral Theory: African Ethics in and Beyond the Continent*) vol. 11 (2023) 122-150.
- 'The Role of Economic Goods in National Reconciliation' in David Bilchitz and Raisa Cachalia (eds) *Transitional Justice, Distributive Justice, and Transformative Constitutionalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023) 33-53.
- 'Political Philosophy in the Global South: Harmony in Africa, East Asia, and South America' in Uchenna Okeja (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of African Political Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 2023) 364-383.
- 'A Reconciliation Theory of State Punishment: An Alternative to Protection and Retribution' *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement* (special issue on A Philosophers' Manifesto: Ideas and Arguments to Change the World) vol. 91 (2022) 119-139.
- 'The Concept of Life's Meaning' in Iddo Landau (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Meaning in Life* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022) 27-42.

- ‘Virtue in African Ethics as Living Harmoniously’ in Chenyang Li and Dascha Düring (eds) *The Virtue of Harmony* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022) 207-229.
- ‘African and East Asian Perspectives on Ageing’ in Christopher Wareham (ed.) *Cambridge Handbook of the Ethics of Ageing* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022) 118-132.
- ‘Recent Work in African Philosophy: Its Relevance Beyond the Continent’ *Mind* vol. 130, no. 518 (2021) 639-660.
- ‘Traditional African Religion as a Neglected Form of Monotheism’ with Motsamai Molefe, *The Monist* (special issue on Analytic Philosophy in Conversation with World Religions) vol. 104, no. 3 (2021) 393-409.
- ‘Supernaturalist Analytic Existentialism’ *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* vol. 89, no. 2 (2021) 189-198.
- ‘The Meanings of God: Reply to Four Critics’ *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* (special issue titled ‘Meanings of Gods; Questions to Thaddeus Metz’) vol. 82, nos. 4-5 (2021) 366-374.
- ‘Comparing the Meaningfulness of Finite and Infinite Lives: Can We Reap What We Sow if We Are Immortal?’ *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement* (special issue on Death and Meaning) no. 90 (2021) 105-123.
- ‘Meaning and Medicine: An Underexplored Bioethical Value’ *Ethik in der Medizin* (special issue on The Question of Life’s Meaning in Medical Ethics) vol. 33, no. 4 (2021) 439-453.
- ‘The Meaning of Life’ (2nd rev. edn) in Edward Zalta (ed.) [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (2021).

SELECTED ADVISORY POSITIONS (from the past three years)

- Editorial Board; book series on The Human Condition; Brill Publishers; 2022-present
- Editorial Board; *Journal of International Political Theory*; 2021-present
- Editorial Board; *Journal of Media Ethics*; 2021-present
- Editorial Board; *Journal of Analytic Theology*; 2020-present
- Editorial Board; *Religious Studies*; 2018-present
- Board of Trustees; *Philosophia Africana*; 2018-present
- Editorial Board; Book Series on African Philosophy: Critical Perspectives and Global Dialogue; Lexington Books, a division of Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; 2014-present
- Advisory Board; Templeton Foundation funded project on Global Philosophy of Religion; 2020-2023
- Editorial Board; *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; 2016-2021

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (from the past five years, out of more than 260)

- ‘African Contributions to Bioethical Controversies’; Bioethics Grand Round; University of Washington School of Medicine’s Ethics Committee; Seattle, USA; 2023

- ‘Democracy as the Final End of a University: Some Complications’; **Keynote address**; Symposium on Universities and Democracy; A Critical Analysis of the Civic Role and Function of Universities in a Democracy; University of Akureyri; Akureyri, Iceland; 2022
- ‘Flourishing and Education in the African Ubuntu Tradition’; Workshop on Non-Western Approaches to Flourishing and Their Educational Implications (webinar); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and University of Birmingham Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues; Birmingham, UK; 2022
- ‘Indigenous African Morality and Its Influence on Philosophy and Society’ (webinar); Universidad Externado de Colombia Centro de Investigación en Filosofía Y Derecho; Bogotá, Colombia; 2021
- ‘The Open Society and Global South Values’; **Keynote address**; Conference on ‘Forget Open Society?’ (webinar); Central European University Open Society Research Platform; Budapest, Hungary; 2021
- ‘An Afro-communal Approach to Healthcare’; **Keynote address**; Yaoundé Seminar on Ethics, Health, and Public Policy (webinar); Catholic University of Central Africa; Yaoundé, Cameroon; 2021
- ‘Comparing the Meaningfulness of Finite and Infinite Lives’; Royal Institute of Philosophy Annual Conference 2021 on Meaning in Life and the Knowledge of Death (webinar); University of Liverpool; Liverpool, UK; 2021
- Roundtable on Pedagogy: Research and Practice in Philosophy of Religion; Closing Session of the 9th International Conference on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion (webinar); Iranian Association for Philosophy of Religion; Tehran, Iran; 2021
- ‘A Reconciliation Theory of Legal Punishment’; KJuris: King’s Legal Philosophy Workshop (webinar); King’s College London Dickson Poon School of Law; London, UK; 2020
- ‘For Reconciliatory Sentencing’; Royal Institute of Philosophy London Lecture Series: A Philosopher’s Manifesto (webinar); London, UK; 2020
- ‘How to Do Global Ethics, with Illustrations from African and Islamic Justice’; **Keynote address**; Conference on Normativity Beyond the West; University of Münster; Münster, Germany; 2019
- ‘Recent Work on the Meaning of “Life’s Meaning”: Should We Change the Philosophical Discourse?’; **Keynote address**; Second International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life; Waseda University; Tokyo, Japan; 2019
- ‘African Virtue as Living Harmoniously’; Conference on Philosophical Perspectives on Harmony; Nanyang Technological University; Singapore; 2019
- ‘Western Psychological Theory’s Blindspots in Respect of Meaning in Life’; Conference on the Meaning of Life: Philosophy and Psychology in Dialogue; Harvard University Human Flourishing Program; Cambridge, United States; 2019

SELECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LAY AUDIENCES (from the past four years, out of more than 175 engagements)

- ‘Should We Want God to Exist for the Sake of Meaning in Our Lives?’; for *logoi* https://philreligion.nd.edu/assets/462782/logoi_2022_final_2_spreads_.pdf; 2022

- Interviewed about *ubuntu* by Andrew Lavin; for the *Reductio: Adventures in Ideas* podcast, <https://shows.acast.com/reductio/episodes/m15-ubuntu-and-the-good-life>; 2022
- Interviewed by Jorge Benítez for the ‘Great Thinkers’ section of *El Mundo* (a national newspaper in Spain), <https://www.elmundo.es/papel/el-mundo-que-viene/2021/02/16/6012e228fdddf344a8b46a3.html>, 14 February, pp. 64-65; 2021
- ‘African Ethicist One of the Top 50 Thinkers of the Covid-19 Age’; interviewed by Hanna Kim for The Scoop at TBS eFM; Seoul, South Korea; 2020

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS SUPERVISED (from the past five years)

- Dr Abiodun Afolabi; Post-doctoral Fellow; ‘The Ethics of Climate Change and Culture’; University of Pretoria; 2023-2024
- Dr Kirk Loughheed; Post-doctoral Fellow; ‘What Is the Value of God?’; University of Pretoria (funded by the Canadian government); 2020-2022
- Dr Cornelius Ewuoso, Post-doctoral Fellow; ‘African Ethics and Personalized Medicine’; University of Johannesburg; 2019-2020
- Dr Erasmus Masitera, Post-doctoral Fellow; ‘Philosophical Approaches to Land Reform in Africa’; University of Johannesburg; 2018-2020
- Dr Ademola Fayemi, Post-doctoral Fellow; ‘African Bioethics and Aesthetic Surgery’; University of Johannesburg; 2017-2020

DOCTORAL RESEARCH SUPERVISED (from the past three years, out of nearly 90 projects;

* = completed)

- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Matthew Parsons (UK), ‘Error Theory and Meaning in Life’; University of Pretoria; 2024-2026.
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Kentsenao Khumo Chimbombi (Botswana), ‘Distributive Justice for Tourism Communities’; University of Pretoria; 2023-2025.
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Felicia Dujon (Barbados), ‘The Epistemology of Spiritual Possession’; University of Pretoria; 2023-2025.
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Eugene Owusu (with Hannes Knoetze and John Sanni as co-supervisors) (Ghana), ‘African Philosophy of Religion Applied to African Pentecostalism’; University of Pretoria; 2023-2025.
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Graham Dampier (South Africa), ‘Responsibility and Reciprocation: On the Principles of an Ubuntu Theory of Equality’; University of Pretoria; 2021-2024 (to submit 30 June 2024).
- PhD Thesis; co-supervisor for Karabo Maiyane (with Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem as primary supervisor) (South Africa), ‘Understanding Dignity in Relation to Artificial Intelligence’; University of Pretoria; 2021-2024 (to submit 31 March 2024).

- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Zama Moyo (with Victoria Graham as co-supervisor) (South Africa), 'The Moral Plausibility of South Africa's National Development Plan: A Relations-Based Approach'; University of Pretoria; 2021-2024 (to submit 31 March 2024).
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Rudolph Nyamudo (Zimbabwe), 'An African Ethics of Migration: Ubuntu Applied to the Zimbabwe-South Africa Border'; University of Pretoria; 2022-2024.*
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Doreen Sesiro (Botswana), 'Bio-technological Enhancement in the Light of *Botho's* Metaphysical and Moral Aspects'; University of Pretoria; 2021-2023. (NB: the first African woman from Botswana to get a PhD in philosophy)*
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Aïda Terblanché-Greeff (South Africa), 'Investigating Time Orientation and Social Self-Constual'; University of Johannesburg; 2018-2022.*
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Sipho Antony Shabangu (South Africa), 'The Implications of *Ubuntu* for Prison Reform: Harmonious Relationships in and out of Prison'; University of Johannesburg; 2018-2021.*
- PhD Thesis; supervisor for Samuel Segun (with Catherine Botha as co-supervisor) (Nigeria), 'Constructing an Afro-ethical Framework for Autonomous Intelligent Systems'; University of Johannesburg; 2018-2021.*

SELECTED INTERNAL SERVICE (from the past five years, out of more than 100 roles)

University of Pretoria (2020-present)

- Department of Human Resources, Search and Shortlisting Committees: Dean of the Faculty of Humanities; 2023
- Senate (membership by nomination and elected as the one full professor from the Faculty of Humanities to serve on Senate); 2023
- University, Talent Management Committee; 2021-2022

University of Johannesburg (2009-2020)

- Senate, Executive Committee (SENEX) (elected by Senate on three occasions); 2011-2013, 2015-2017, 2018-2020
- University, Department of Higher Education and Training Quality Control Committee; 2009-2012, 2017-2019
- University, Selection Committee for Director: Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS); 2019

SELECTED EXTERNAL SERVICE (from the past three years, out of more than 115 engagements)

- Hired to mentor cohorts of mid-career female academics from all faculties; for the Research Leadership Programme (RLP); University of Johannesburg; 2020-2024
- Hired to give training workshops about how to run a PhD Programme; for the University of Malawi Department of Philosophy; 2023-2024
- Hired to vet a 140,000 word book manuscript titled *Life and Meaning in a Solved World*; for the University of Oxford Future of Humanity Institute; 2023
- Hired to serve as a Member of Advisory Board; Global Philosophy of Religion Project; University of Birmingham; 2020-2023

- Hired by the University of Birmingham (UK) Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues to compose a chapter for a report on African approaches to flourishing and education delivered to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); 2022
- Hired to evaluate a grant proposal titled ‘Buffering, Porosity and Brain Health in Uganda’; for the Templeton World Charity Foundation; 2022

SELECTED INVITED BOOK ENDORSEMENTS (from more than 30, illustrating variety of topics and presses)

- Danny Singh, *The Tripartite Realist War: Analysing Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023); <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-34163-2#about-book-reviews>.
- Oche Onazi, *An African Path to Disability Justice* (Cham: Springer, 2019); <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030358495>.
- Alex Broadbent, *Philosophy of Medicine* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019); <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/philosophy-of-medicine-9780190612139?cc=de&lang=en#>.
- Kathryn Norlock (ed.) *The Moral Psychology of Forgiveness* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017); <http://www.rowmaninternational.com/books/the-moral-psychology-of-forgiveness>.
- Joshua Seachris and Stewart Goetz (eds) *God and Meaning* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016); <http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/god-and-meaning-9781628927634/>.
- Guy Fletcher (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being* (London: Routledge, 2015); <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415714532/>.
- Margaret Holmgren, *Forgiveness and Retribution* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012); <http://www.cambridge.org/aus/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9781107017962>.

MANUSCRIPTS REFEREED (from the past three years, out of more than 250 reviews done)

- Oxford University Press (book proposals)
- Cambridge University Press (book proposal)
- Religious Studies*
- Mind*
- European Journal of Philosophy*
- Journal of Philosophy*
- Journal of Moral Philosophy*
- Journal of Political Philosophy*
- Ethics*
- Philosophy East and West*

FUN FACT

- Mentioned 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).