

Book Reviews

L. Juliana Claassens, Charlene van der Walt, and Funlola O. Olojede (eds), *Teaching for Change: Essays on Pedagogy and Theology in Africa*.

Stellenbosch: Sun Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-928480-12-9. Softcover. Includes Table of Contents. 211p.

Teaching for Change: Essays on Pedagogy, Gender and Theology in Africa is a collection of essays that reflect on various approaches, pedagogies and methodologies used by the contributors to engage in the transformation of society. African societies are deeply homophobic, patriarchal, sexist, racist and violent. These are the concerns that the authors share and seek to foreground ways of raising awareness and changing attitudes regarding the intersections of race, class, sexual orientation, gender, violence and health.

The contributions are drawn together by three methodological points of reference: The first is intersectionality which assists those in the movement for gender justice to think across different categories that shape the lives of individuals and communities. Second, many of the contributions are rooted in the use of stories and narrative texts (both biblical and secular) to create the space for reflection. Third, the role of dialogue and encounter is important for the contributors.

Part 1 – “Storytelling and Transformation”. Juliana Claassens engages with recent events of sexual violence by reading the story of the trafficking of the Judean princesses in Jeremiah 40-44. The text is read with a focus on the trauma that the princesses experienced. This demonstrates the ability of stories to forge a connection rooted in a shared sense of suffering and of experiencing the systemic nature of sexual violence that spans millennia. A similar method is used by Renate van der Westhuizen to read the story of the gang rape and murder of the Levite’s concubine in Judges 19 and to link it to the experiences of the character Thomaza in the contemporary drama *Karoo Moose*. Funlola Olojede engages with the stories of migration as narrated in Genesis 12 - 50 to reflect on the effects of the contemporary migration of women and children in different parts of the globe, particularly from Africa to Europe and the Americas.

Part 2 – “Sexual Diversity and Encounter”. Informed by theologians Gareth Moore and Marcella Althaus-Reid, Gerald West reads Genesis 2, the text on which the traditional concept of marriage between a man and a woman is based. By uncovering the hidden meaning of the original text, West demonstrates that here is no resort to a “heterosexist theology of sexuality”. West then offers a Contextual