

Contact information:**Dr. John A. Chesworth**[Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies](#)

The Song School
109A Iffley Road
Oxford OX4 1EH
United Kingdom

Biographical Sketch**Qualifications:**

2008 PhD (Islamic Studies) University of Birmingham (Part-time),
1999 MA (Islamic Studies) (Distinction) (Birmingham)
1988 BA (Th) Upper Second Class Honours (Trinity College, Bristol)
1978 BEd Second Class (Durham)

Research Focus

Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa
Use of the Bible and Qur'an in polemical material
Islam in Europe

Professional Experience

October 2010 Supervision of MSt in Study of Religions, University of Oxford
July 2009 Member of Theology Faculty, University of Oxford
March 2009 Joint editor with Dr. Franz Kogelmann, University of Bayreuth [Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa](#), an online publication series
February 2009 Associate Member of Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, University of Bayreuth
November 2008 Elected Honorary Research Fellow, St. Stephen's House, Oxford
September 2008 Appointed Editor of Network for Inter Faith Concerns (NIFCON) Christian-Muslim News Digest
January 2008 **Lecturer** and **Team Member**, Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford
From June 2006 **Senior Lecturer**, St. Paul's United Theological College (Now St. Paul's University)
From Jan. 2004 **Programme Director**, Post-Graduate Programmes in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations
May 2000-2005 Head of Religious and Missiological Studies Department, **St. Paul's United Theological College**
1989-2000 **Lecturer**, St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa, Tanzania

International Conferences and Professional Experience:

February 2011 'Holy Scriptures and their use by Christians and Muslims in East Africa', Guest Lecture at University of Bayreuth
July 2010 Visiting Scholar at Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, Summer Academy

July 2010 'The African Christian and Islamic da'wa and Polemics', paper presented at Christian Responses to Islam conference in Accra, Ghana

April 2010 Visiting Scholar, Theological College of Northern Nigeria, Jos, Nigeria

February 2010 Participant in the Third Grantees meeting for the Volkswagen Stiftung Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, University of Bayreuth

November 2009 Visiting Scholar, St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya

September 2009 Visiting Scholar, St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya

April 2009 'Polemical Revival: attacking the other's texts', Keynote Lecture at The European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (ESITIS), Salzburg

January 2009 'The Use of the Bible by Muslims in East Africa', Guest Lecture at University of Bayreuth

September 2008 Visiting Scholar, St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya

July 2008 Visiting Scholar at Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, Summer Academy

April 2008 Workshop for the Sharia debates Project, University of Jos, Nigeria

November 2007 Presentation at First Grantees Meeting within the Africa Initiative, Volkswagen Stiftung, Bamako, Mali, 25-28 November 2007

October 2007 'Muslim and Christian use of scripture in Swahili pamphlets', paper presented at *Texts, Words and Images – New Media and Islam in Africa*, Workshop convened by Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, Evanston

June 2007 Facilitator at Conference on Local Islam under global influence: Sharia debates in selected African countries, University of Bayreuth, 4-5 June 2007

May 2007 Visiting Scholar, Humanities Collaborative Research Centre, University of Bayreuth

May 2007 'The use of Scripture in Tracts in Swahili', paper presented at Swahili Colloquium, held at University of Bayreuth, 18-20 May 2007

February 2007 Workshop for the Sharia debates Project, Shendi, Sudan

November 2006 'A study of selected Islamic Internet Sites in East Africa', paper presented at Cyberspace 2006, Faculty of Law, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, 24-25 November 2006

June 2006 Visiting Scholar, Humanities Collaborative Research Centre, University of Bayreuth

April 2006 'Inter-religious Praxis: Contemporary Challenges in Christian-Muslim relations in Kenya', paper presented at EATWOT annual Kenya Chapter Meeting, Nakuru

January 2006 Selection of Junior Scholars from Kenya for the Sharia debates and its perception by Muslims in Selected African Countries project, Limuru

November 2005 Interfaith Dialogue Discussions between Coptic Organisation of Egypt and Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa, AACC, Nairobi

October 2005 'Challenges to the next Christendom: Islam in Africa' paper presented at *Southern Christianity and its relation to Christianity in the North* conference to commemorate 75 years of the Chair of Missiology at Radboud University

February 2005 Attended Workshop on 'Sharia debates and its perception by Muslims in Selected African Countries', University of Capetown

November 2004 Consultant at Islam Curriculum development meeting for Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), TEC, Kurasini, Dar es Salaam

October 2004 Invited to be Country co-ordinator for Sharia-Debates and Their Perception by Christians and Muslims in Selected African Countries. Trans-national research project run by the University of Bayreuth and Volkswagen Foundation

Sept. 2004 'Can Evangelism and Interfaith Relations Co-Exist?' Paper presented to Issue Group 20: Understanding Muslims, at Forum 2004, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Pattaya, Thailand

August 2004 First Intake of MA in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, St. Paul's UTC

July 2004 Host and joint organiser of workshop on 'Sharia Debates and its Perception by Muslims and Christians in Selected African Countries', Limuru

April 2004 Awarded Islam in Africa Fellowship by African Studies Centre, Leiden and Centre d'Etudes d'Afrique Noire (CEAN) in Bordeaux

April 2004 Attended Christian-Muslim Relations in Sub-Saharan Africa Conference, at Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Birmingham

Feb-Dec 2004 Participated in Forum on Religion and Politics in Kenya, organised jointly by Friedrich Eberhardt Stiftung and University of Nairobi

January 2004 Consultant at Islam Curriculum development meeting for Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Arusha

November 2003 'Teaching Islam in the Context of HIV/Aids', Paper presented at a Training of Trainers for World Council of Churches, Limuru

October 2003 'The use of the Qur'an in Swahili da'wa and evangelism literature', Paper presented at 'Qur'an: Text, Interpretation and Translation' Third International Conference on the Qur'an 16th-17th October 2003 SOAS, University of London

July 2003 Facilitator at Workshop for Theological Lecturers for CCT, Zanzibar, Unguja

June 2003 'Approaches to teaching Islam in the Twenty First Century' Paper presented to Concilium on Theological Education at St Paul's UTC, Limuru

May 2003 'Fundamentalism and Outreach Strategies in East Africa: Christian Evangelism and Muslim *Da'wa*' Paper presented at ISITA Colloquium, Northwestern University, Evanston

December 2002 Rapporteur at Iran-Britain: Interreligious Dialogue: Religion in the Political Arena, Birmingham, UK

July 2002 '*Dhimmī* Status in Islam from an Historical Perspective with Implications for Present day Africa', Paper presented at the PROCMURA, Area Advisers/African Christian Islamicists Consultation held in Accra, Ghana

May 2002 'Offerings from Kenya to Anglicanism: A Critique' Paper presented to ACK/CMS Consultation, Limuru, Kenya

July 2001 Facilitator for PROCMURA Seminar on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, held in Kampala, Uganda for UJCC

May 2001 Appointed as External Examiner to OTC for Dissertation Module

February 2001 Facilitator for PROCMURA Seminar on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, held in Tanga, Tanzania for CCT

September 2000 Facilitator for Seminar for Lecturers of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, in Ugandan Anglican Theological Institutions, Kabale, Uganda

August 2000 'Fundamentalism and Outreach Strategies in East Africa – Christian Evangelism and Muslim *da'wa*' Paper presented at the Kenya Chapter of EATWOT, Dimesse Centre, Nairobi

Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa and Muslims and Islam in Africa

On-Line Series Co-Editor with Dr. Franz Kogelmann, University of Bayreuth
<http://www.sharia-in-africa.net/pages/publications.php>

Christian-Muslim News Digest

Since January 2009 editing this quarterly publication for the Network of Inter-Faith Concerns (NIFCON), of the Anglican Communion.

<http://nifcon.anglicancommunion.org/digest/index.cfm>

Forthcoming Publications

Shari'a in Africa: Reactions and Responses eds. John Chesworth and Franz Kogelmann, - under consideration

'The African Christian and Islamic *da'wa* and Polemics.' In eds J. Azumah, L. Sanneh *The African Christian and Islam*, London:

'Kadhi's Courts in Kenya: Reactions and Responses', in eds A. Tayob, H. Mwakimako & J. Wandera, *Proceedings of Kadhi's Courts Conference*, University of Cape Town

'Polemical Revival: attacking the other's texts', *Proceedings of the European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies April 2009 in Currents of Encounter*, Amsterdam: Rodopi Press

'Ahmed Deedat' *Encyclopaedia of the Bible and its Reception*, Berlin: de Gruyter

On-line publications

'The Use of Scripture in Swahili Tracts by Muslims and Christians in East Africa'
<http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/150/>

Publications

2009 'The Church and Islam: *Vyama Vingi* (Multipartyism) and the Ufungamano Talks', In *Religion and Politics in Kenya*, Ed. B. Knighton, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 155-180.

2008 'The Cross and 'Outreach' Literature in East Africa', In *Jesus and the Cross: Reflections of Christians from Islamic Contexts*, Ed. D. Singh, Carlisle: Regnum, 105-111

2007 'A study of selected Islamic Internet Sites in East Africa', *Masaryk University Journal of Law and Technology*. Vol. 1, No. 2, 253-262

2007 'Challenges to the next Christendom: Islam in Africa', in: Frans Wijzen & Robert Schreiter, (eds.) *Global Christianity: Contested Claims*, Amsterdam & New York: Editions Rodopi, 117-132

2006 'Fundamentalism and Outreach Strategies in East Africa: Christian Evangelism and Muslim *Da'wa*', in: Benjamin F. Soares (ed.) *Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa*, "Islam in Africa" series, volume 6, Leiden & Boston: Brill, 159-186

2006 Book Reviews of: *Jihād: From Qur'ān to bin Laden*, Richard Bonney, 2004; *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*, Reza Aslan, 2005; *The Search For Arab Democracy: Discourses and Counter-Discourses*, Larbi Sadiki, 2004, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* Vol 17, No. 1, January 2006. 119-120, 128-9 and 131-3

- 2005 'Muslims and Christians in East Africa since Independence: Shifting Fortunes and Perceptions', *Journal of African Christian Thought* 7 (2) 2004, 39-47
- 2005 'Review Article on Arye Oded *Islam and Politics in Kenya*, and Galia Sabar *Church, State and Society in Kenya: From Mediation to Opposition*', *AICMAR Bulletin*, 3, 2004, 60-65
- 2004 'Approaches to teaching Islam in the Twenty First Century', in Grant LeMarquand and Joseph D. Galgalo, (eds.), *Theological Education in Contemporary Africa*, Eldoret: Zapf Chancery, 181-210
- 2004 'Dhimmī Status in Islam from an Historical Perspective with Implications for Present day Africa' *From the Cross to the Crescent*, Procmura Occasional Paper 1.1, in J. Mbillah and J. Chesworth (eds.), Nairobi: Procmura, 64-85
- 2003 *The Wisdom of the Qur'an* and *The Wisdom of the Arabs* Book Review, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 14:4 October 2003, 491-492
- 2003 'The Role of CMS in the Development of St. Paul's' with Richard Morgan, in *For God and Humanity: 100 Years of St. Paul's United Theological College*, E. Onyango (ed.), Eldoret: Zapf Chancery, 107-132
- 2002 'Anglican Liturgical Reform in Kenya: Some Reflections', *Encounter*, 2, 9-18
- 2002 'Anglican Relations with Members of Other Faiths and Communities', *Encounter*, 1, 16-36