

## Contact information:

### Dr. John A. Chesworth

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## Biographical Sketch

### Qualifications:

2008 Research Fellow at St. Stephen's House, University of Oxford  
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  
Use of the Internet by Muslim and Christian groups

### Professional Experience

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 Colleg**  
April 2000 **Lecturer**, St. Paul's United Theological College  
Oct. 1997-June 1999 **Principal**, St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa, Tanzania  
October 1995 **Acting Principal** of St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa, Tanzania  
1989-1993 **Academic Registrar**, St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa, Tanzania  
1989-2000 **Lecturer**, St. Philip's Theological College, Kongwa, Tanzania

### International Conferences and Professional Experience:

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 Delegate at Conference for Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa planning meeting, AACC, Nairobi
- 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
- August 2005 2<sup>nd</sup> Intake of MA in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, St. Paul's UTC
- April 2005 'Leadership and the Media: Use of the Internet by Muslims in Kenya', paper presented at EATWOT annual Kenya Chapter Meeting, Nakuru
- 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'ān in Swahili da'wa and evangelism literature', Paper presented at 'Qur'an: Text, Interpretation and Translation' Third International Conference on the Qur'an 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 2003 SOAS, University of London

- August 2003 “‘Texts of Terror’” The treatment of Women in the Qur’an and Hadith literature’ paper presented at Women in Ministry seminar, St. Paul’s UTC, Limuru
- 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
- August 2002 Intermediate Islam Course, Limuru – Co-ordinator and Facilitator
- 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
- March 2002 Facilitator for PROCMURA/OAIC Seminar on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Kampala, Uganda
- 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

### **Forthcoming Publications**

- 2008 ‘Leadership and the Media: Use of the Internet by Muslims in Kenya’, in: John Chesworth, Margaret Gecaga & Zachariah W. Samita (Eds), *Quest for Transformational Leadership in Africa*, Nairobi: Acton
- 2008 ‘Studying Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in East Africa’, In John Chesworth and Johnson Mbillah (Eds), *Procmura Occasional Paper 2*

### **Publications**

- 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