



## **Africa: Global Public Health, Social Ethics, and Theology**

**Leadership:** [Toussaint Kafarhire Murhula, S.J.](#), Armel Klarc Setubi, S.J., Yannick Essenge, S.J.

### **Introduction**

Fr. Jacquineau Azetsop, S.J., Aze for close friends, died on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He was a Cameroonian Jesuit, dean of the School of Social Sciences at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. His teaching and research focused on global health policy, public health, and bioethics, with a special attention to social determinants of health, health systems, and the inclusion of the destitute poor. One of his most important works is the edited volume, *HIV and AIDS in Africa: Christian Reflection, Public Health, Social Transformation*, published by Orbis Books in 2016. As Fr Jim Keenan (Director of his PhD dissertation at Boston College) says, he was a “leader” and “bridge-builder” and “we have to make sure we do not forget what he has done!”<sup>1</sup>

**Languages:** The primary languages will be English and French to allow greater inclusion. If need be, we shall make use of translation tools and captioning in Zoom to conduct meetings. In the end, we hope that a volume will be published in both English and French that will allow not only scholars but also his biological family back in Cameroon to access Jacquineau’s legacy to the Church and Society globally.

### **Purpose:**

- To celebrate Jacquineau’s life; highlight his contribution; and pursue passion for global public health, health policy, and ethics, and honor his legacy.
- To prolong the conversation on issues of importance such as medical ethics; colonial medicine; health systems, health services, and health infrastructures management in Africa; public health policies, as well as the politics and the dynamics of infectious diseases today.
- To discuss further on the social and socioeconomic determinants of health; perception and social construction of disease; healing ministries; and issues of alcoholism, tobacco use, and malnutrition.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1861807/9692081>

- Ultimately, to pay tribute to a pioneer by publishing a volume of essays that will expound on his work on public health, bioethics, theology, and social justice. The volume will help enshrine Jacquineau's legacy and bring him into classrooms.

**Reporting methodology:** Assisted by a secretary, the coordinators will make sure to collect presented draft papers, stock them into a google doc file, and allow participants to make comments or write questions for improvement before final submission.

Convene an Africa CTEWC meeting in Yaoundé in October 2022 to mark the first anniversary of Aze's passing and celebrate with his family through this major conference.

**Call for members:** This VT is inviting theologians, philosophers, social science researchers, ethicists, health policy professionals, scientists, and anthropologists, acquainted with Jacquineau's work to submit their reflection bridging issues of social justice and public health, bioethics, and theology in context of global public health policy.

A target of 12 to 15 participants will be welcomed although we can open for more papers' presentation at the Yaoundé conference

**Duration and meeting frequency:** We propose a monthly meeting between April and September 2022 for the VT. The goal would be to allow scholars with interest in Jacquineau's work to highlight his contribution to academia and to theology. In submitting their abstract, they will show which aspect they want to highlight in Aze's thought.

Meetings will be held via Zoom while documents and other works can be shared in Google Docs. The VT coordinators will request anyone who has access to Jacquineau's publications to also share them in the same Google file.