



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

Centre for the Study of World Christianity
Spring Seminars (January – March 2021)

There are 5 seminars organised along the hybrid model of last semester. You are welcome to attend in the Rainy Hall or on Zoom. Time is 4.10pm–5:30pm unless otherwise stated.

Zoom login details are available on request from emma.wildwood@ed.ac.uk.

19th January: CSWC PhD Students presentations

Nuam Hatzaw “...no place to lay their head”: Towards a Trauma-Informed Theology of Migration for the 1.5 Generation

Theologies of migration have yet to fully examine the experiences and stories of the “1.5 generation” – those who were born in their home countries but migrated elsewhere while still young. Retaining memories and attachment to the place of their birth, while also forming new and equally salient ties to the country in which they now live, many 1.5 generation migrants express feeling lost and displaced, unable to comfortably call either location ‘home’. Such destabilising sentiments are only further intensified during times of heightened political and social tension. Using auto-ethnography – specifically, the Asian experience in Britain – along with insights from trauma theory, this paper attempts to put forward a theology of migration that addresses the experiences and needs of 1.5 generation migrants.

Matt Reis, The Evangelicalization of Brazilian Christianity in South Florida and the Problem of the Undocumented Status of Many *Evangélicos*

The landscape of Brazilian Christianity in South Florida is very different from that of Brazil. While Roman Catholic adherence is still the leading form of Christianity in Brazil at 70% of the population, the opposite is true in South Florida, where Catholic parishes are few and far between, and the needs of Brazilian migrants are met primarily by evangelical churches. This different dynamic between Brazilian evangelical and Catholic churches fosters new relationships that are evident between the two parties in the diaspora in South Florida. *Evangélicos* are also faced with the issue of undocumented migration, a challenge exclusive to the diaspora, and the many difficulties brought on by a lack of residency status. This paper will explore the Evangelicalization of Brazilian Christianity in South Florida, and the moral issue of how Brazilian evangelical pastors have negotiated the problem of the undocumented status of many of their congregants.

2nd February: World Christianity at New College: A Conversation Involving Brian Stanley, Jooseop Keum, Esther Mombo, Timothy Tennent, and Janice McLean-Farrell

A CSWC contribution to the 175th anniversary of New College in 2021. Prof Stanley will provide a short historical overview of World Christianity at New College followed by discussion with alumni, who will reflect on the following questions: 1. What stands out in your memory as the most stimulating aspect of your time as a student in the Centre and New College? 2. How did your studies and experience in the Centre prepare you for the work you have done subsequently, in teaching, writing, and forms of ministry?

23rd February: Michael Ratnapalan (Yonsei University): 'Our Father's Footprints' Robert Louis Stevenson's writing on the Pacific Islands and the Anthropology of Conversion, 1888-1894. Respondent: Kirsten Murray.

Produced during the last six years of his life, Robert Louis Stevenson's (1850-94) writing on the Pacific Islands has come to be recognized for its engagement with theories of anthropology. Whether framed as a challenge to conventional evolutionist models of cultural change or as the application of Scottish comparative jurisprudence, critics now regard his work as part of the turn of the century debate about the meaning and study of culture. However, modern scholarship has hardly touched an essential aspect of Stevenson's interest in anthropology: the missionary contribution. The present essay provides an intellectual context for the missionary work that Stevenson observed, wrote about, and participated in. Stevenson was thoroughly engaged with the philosophical and pastoral issues that were central to this work and he made an important contribution to the theory of conversion by linking it with cultural regeneration.

A joint seminar with the Religion and Literature Network and CSWC.

9th March 5.10pm: Decolonising Divinity: A Roundtable discussion with Arko Longkumer, Shadaab Rahemtulla, Emma Wild-Wood (School of Divinity)

A joint seminar with Religious Studies, Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations and CSWC.

23rd March: Naomi Richman (Birkbeck, University of London) Deviance and Desire: Representations of sexuality and evil in the Nigerian Deliverance Churches. Respondent: TBC.

Fantastical and gruesome depictions of blood-sucking witches and penis-snatching mermaids are plentiful in the stories recycled by the Deliverance churches. But what do these stories reveal about underlying understandings of evil, sexuality and desire? And how does analysing them help us make better sense of gender dynamics as they unfold on the ground, both within these churches but also outside of them? Based on 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork in the Nigerian Deliverance churches, this paper analyses representations of central demonic characters in the Deliverance imagination to investigate what they tell us about the status of sexual desire and deviance. This paper argues that the fantasies and phobias of female sexual deviance that are so pervasive in Deliverance discourses serve as a basis for these church's efforts at strict social control of women and their sexuality.