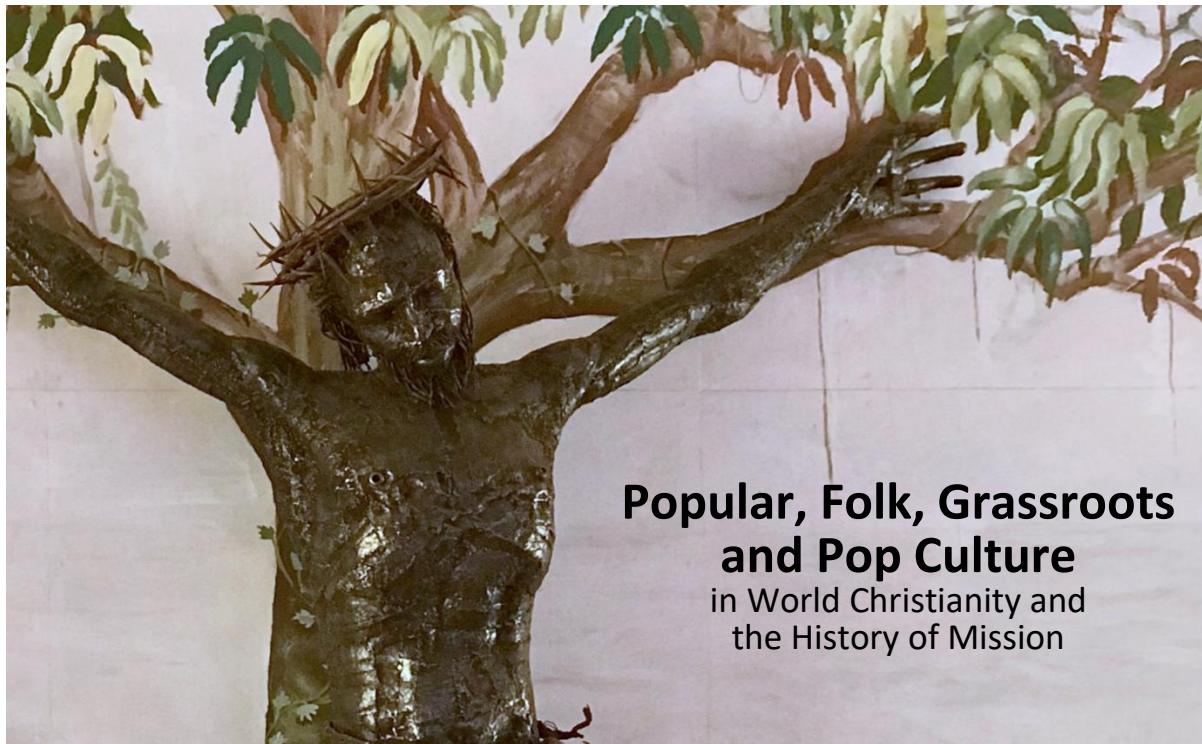


Yale-Edinburgh Group

on World Christianity and the History of Mission



Popular, Folk, Grassroots and Pop Culture

in World Christianity and
the History of Mission

10–12 June 2026 · New College, Edinburgh · #YaleEdin2026

This conference is hosted by the Centre for the Study of World Christianity in collaboration with Yale Divinity School, and with additional support from the Overseas Ministries Study Center. The Duff Lecture is sponsored by the Alexander Duff Missionary Lectureship Trust.



Centre for the Study of World Christianity
School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh
www.cswc.div.ed.ac.uk

Previous meetings of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on World Christianity and the History of Mission
(see <https://yale-edinburgh.yale.edu>)

Date	Host	Theme
Mar 1992	Yale	From Christendom to World Christianity
Sept 1992	Edinburgh	Intercontinental Connexions
Sept 1993	Yale	Language, Culture, and Translation
Sept 1994	Edinburgh	The Churches and the Missionary Movement
June 1995	Yale	World Christianity and the Teaching of History
June 1996	Edinburgh	Missions and Ethnicity
June 1997	Yale	Missions and Consequences: The Historical Impact of the Missionary Movement
July 1998	Edinburgh	War and Peace in the History of Missions
July 1999	Yale	Youth and the Leadership of the Missionary Movement: Inter-Generational Challenge and Opportunity
July 2000	Edinburgh	Representations and Misrepresentations of Missions
July 2001	Yale	Missions and Human Rights
July 2002	Edinburgh	Missions and the Powers: Seen and Unseen
July 2003	Yale	Conversion and Converts
July 2004	Edinburgh	Missions, Money, and Privilege
July 2005	Yale	Identity, Ethnic and Christian, in the History of Christian Missions
July 2006	Edinburgh	Sight, Sound, and Touch: Visual, Musical, and Material Aspects of Christian Mission
June 2007	Yale	Liberty, Slavery, and Christian Missions
July 2008	Edinburgh	Perceptions and Portrayals: heroes and villains in mission
July 2009	Yale	Missions, Law, and Custom
July 2010	Edinburgh	Consultation and Cooperation in the History of Missions
Jun–Jul 2011	Yale	Missions and Education
June 2012	Edinburgh	Religious Movements of Renewal, Revival, and Revitalization in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2013	Yale	Health, Healing, and Medicine in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2014	Edinburgh	Gender and Family in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2015	Yale	Religion and Religions in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2016	Edinburgh	Responses to Missions: Appropriations, Revisions, and Rejections
June 2017	Yale	Migration, Exile, and Pilgrimage in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2018	Edinburgh	Scripture, Prayer and Worship in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2019	Yale	Diversity and Difference in Custom, Belief, and Practice in the History of Missions and World Christianity
June 2020	Edinburgh	Postponed until 2021
June 2021	Edinburgh (online)	Oral, Print, and Digital Cultures in World Christianity and the History of Mission
June 2022	Yale (hybrid)	World Christianity: Legacy and the State of the Field
June 2023	Edinburgh	Creation, Climate Change, and World Christianity
June 2024	Yale	Spirit and the Spiritual: Ancestors, Deities and the Holy Spirit in Church, and Mission
May 2025	Universidade Mackenzie, São Paulo	Christianity, Democracy, and Nationalism

Wednesday, 10 June 2026			
10.30 - 12.00	Registration <i>New College Foyer</i>		
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch <i>Rainy Hall</i>		
13.00 - 13.30	Welcome <i>Rainy Hall</i> Professor Jeremy Carrette, Head of School, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh Professor Emma Wild-Wood, Co-Director, Centre for the Study of World Christianity		
13.30 - 15.00	Paper Session 1a <i>Oldham-Porteous Room</i> World Christianity and New Media	Paper Session 1b <i>Althaus-Reid Room</i> Indigenization and Popular Culture	Paper Session 1c <i>Elizabeth Templeton Room</i> World Christianity and Music
	Chair: Gloria Tseng Yu-huei Huang: Everyday Theological Sense-Making through Manga and Anime among Christians in Taiwan and Hong Kong; Reading Frieren: Beyond Journey's End Warren Beattie: Onnuri Church and CGNTV's Interactions with the World of K-drama: Making Sense of Megachurch Appropriation of Hallyu in a Mediated Age Jerusha Lieow: A Decade of Digital Play: Pokémon Go and Missional Discernment in World Christianity	Chair: Elizabeth S. Martejijn Amanda Kim: From Monasteries to Prayer Mountains: The Spatial Indigenization of Korean Christianity and Popular Spirituality, 1960s–1980s Lakeisha Aquino: From Symbol to Agency: Decolonizing & Reclaiming Local Aesthetics in Ghanaian Christianity. Ábrahám Kovács: From Hungarian Protestant Mourning Hymns to British Evangelicals' Victorious Songs: The Impact of Scottish Mission on the Hymnbooks of the Reformed people in the Austro-Hungarian Empire	Chair: Calida Chu Kyama Mugambi: Imela! Obrigado! Translation and Transnational Flows in African Urban Worship Music Alan M. Guenthe: 'Rescue the holy pleasure': The use of Popular melodies in Methodist missions Mouzou Mondohong Cédric: Rhythm as Lived Theology: Grassroots Sacred Songs and Inculturation in Togolese Christianity
15.00 - 16.30	Paper Session 2a <i>Oldham-Porteous Room</i> Theologising through Popular Culture	Paper Session 2b <i>Althaus-Reid Room</i> Indigenization and Popular Culture	Paper Session 2c <i>Elizabeth Templeton Room</i> Mediating Christianity in Popular Culture
	Chair: Sigamoney Shakespeare Kwasi Boakye-Yiadom: What Is in a Name?: Onomastic Christology in Edin Ben Nie Robert Owusu Agyarko: Sin, Distance and the Search of a Mediator: Akan Myth of God-self-withdrawal as Popular Theology and Missionary Encounter Rathiulung Elias KC: Postdigital Theology and Indigenous Engagements with Popular Environmentalism	Chair: David Lewis Prabo Mihindukulasuriya: Sir Alexander Johnston's poetic, Musical, and Artistic Efforts to Memorialize his Achievements in Colonial Ceylon Rachel Grandey: 'Our Hmong inheritance': Biblical Parallels and Cultural Continuity for Hmong Christians in South-East Asia B Laboy: Santa Muerte: "Folk Catholicism" among Mexican-Americans	Chair: Abimbola Adelakun Emma Goldhaber: Framing faith: A Comparative Analysis of Media Frame Deployment in 21st-century American Christian Apologetics Films Mina Lee: The "Jesus Glow": Crafting Viral Aesthetics for Born-Again Testimonies on Social Media Marvin Takyi Hanson and Michael Perry N. O. Tettey: The Hit-and-Run Interpretive Approach to Scripture: Examining the Influence of Pop Culture on Contemporary Christianity in Africa
16.30 - 17.00	Tea Break <i>Rainy Hall</i>		

Wednesday, 10 June 2026	
17.00 - 18.30	Alexander Duff Lecture (Plenary) <i>General Assembly Hall</i> Professor Jean Kidula, Professor of Music (Ethnomusicology), University of Georgia “This time, I must sing”: African Missionizing and Christian Song Introduction by Rev’d Dr Ian Alexander, Church of Scotland Chair, Dr Kyama Mugambi
18.30 - 19.00	Reception <i>Rainy Hall</i>
19.00 - 21.00	Dinner <i>Sponsored by Yale Divinity School</i> Resource Workshop: New Ideas in World Christianity Scott Libson and other senior scholars in World Christianity <i>Rainy Hall</i>

Thursday, 11 June 2026			
9.00 - 10.30	Chinese University of Hong Kong Panel (Plenary) <i>Elizabeth Templeton Lecture Room</i> Chair: Tobias Brandner Alexis Balmont: Zoroastrian Folk Practices in Early Medieval Central Asia: A Negative Reading of Chinese Christian Texts (7th-8th centuries) Sze Yee Sarah Pang: Unfolding Reproductive Taboos and Cultural Practices: Conceiving a Pastoral Theology for Hong Kong Millennial Christian Mothers Kenneth LAU Siu Hang: Different Eyes, Same Island, Same God: A Comparative Study of Missionary Representations on Hainan in the Literature of B.C. Henry and François M. Savina		
	Tea Break <i>Rainy Hall</i>		
11.00 - 12.30	Paper Session 3a <i>Oldham-Porteous Room</i> Christianity, Identity and Popular Culture Chair: Kevin Ward Mark McLeister: Naming Culture, Chinese Protestant Names and the Construction of Christian Identity in China Oluwaseun Abimbola: Popular Worship, Cultural Belonging, and the Making of Afropolitan Pentecostalism Aaron Joshura John: Faith from Below: Dalit Popular Religion and Orthodox Christian Identity in South India	Paper Session 3b <i>Althaus-Reid Room</i> Communicating Faith: Story, Song, and Media Across Contexts Chair: Brian Stanley Shu-chen Hsu Hsiung: Recording the Spirit on a Cassette: Audio Tapes as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers for Popular Chinese Christians Zavi-I Nisa: Singing Faith: Tenyidie geizo (poems) as a Medium of Angami Christian Spirituality Benjamin Aldous, Natasha Klukach: “This is my story, this is my song”: C.S. Song’s Story theology, the Global Christian Forum, and the Future of Ecumenical Life	Paper Session 3c <i>Elizabeth Templeton Room</i> Secular Age, Secularization, and World Christianity Chair: Warren Beattie Abimbola Adelakun: Suspension of Disbelief: Christianity, Popular Drama, and Plausibility Structures Sayyoung Lee: K-POP Worldviews as Quasi-Religion: Gnostic Capitalism, Digital Fandom, and Christian Missional Alternatives in the Secular Age Calida Chu: “Those who Believe Receive Love”: Postsecular Public Theology in Cantonpop in the Twenty-First Century
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch <i>Rainy Hall</i>		

Thursday, 11 June 2026			
13.30 - 15.00	Paper Session 4a <i>Oldham-Porteous Room</i> Encounters and Negotiation	Paper Session 4b <i>Althaus-Reid Room</i> Popular Culture, Missionary Culture	Paper Session 4c <i>Elizabeth Templeton Room</i> Popular Christianity: Storytelling, Poems, and Oral Culture
	Chair: Tomas Sundnes Drønen Elizabeth S. Marteiijn: Writing Culture in Mandate Palestine: Revisiting the Ethnographic Legacy of Tawfiq Canaan (1882-1964) Jieun Yoo: Popular Piety and the Paradox of Mission: Women, Culture, and Christianity in Korea Liza Qian: To the Chinese, became as a Chinese- a case study of missionary interaction with local culture in Northeast China (1870s-1940s)	Chair: Kirsteen Murray Retief Müller: Missionary Mobility and the Mythologies of Progress in Norwegian Popular Imagination Augustin Tchamba: Syncretism and Strategy: How Folk Traditions Shaped Christian Mission Movements Ellen Loucks: A Missionary “Politics of Recognition”: Popular Culture and Otherness in Nineteenth-Century Faith Missions	Chair: Chloë Starr Ernest Perbi-Asare: Using Mmee to Disciple Oral Learners in the Church of Pentecost, Ghana Nathan Baker: Sacred Metal and the Good Shepherd: A Field-Based Study of Indigenous Symbols and Bible Storycrafting in Southern Madagascar Gloria Tseng: The Bible, Modern Media, and the Ancient Art of Storytelling: A Preliminary Study of Zeng Yangqin’s Podcast Series the Bible Has No Secrets
15.00 - 15.30	Tea Break <i>Rainy Hall</i>		
15.30 - 17.00	Paper Session 5a <i>Althaus-Reid Room</i> Christian Popular Culture, Social Justice and Liberation	Paper Session 5b <i>Elizabeth Templeton Lecture Room</i> Popular Culture and Christianity in the Digital Age	
	Chair: Arun Jones David Lewis: From Hymn to Anthem: Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika within the ‘New South Africa’ Sigamoney Shakespeare: Dalits lived theology, Dalit music, Dance and Liberation from the Grassroots Culture in World Christianity Claudia Alvarez: Are queer Latin American voices allowed to worship God? A case from pop culture	Chair: Lina Toth Luis Santiago: From Pulpits to Algorithms: The Christian Influencer and the Reconfiguration of Charismatic Authority in Puerto Rico (2010–Present) Nana Ama Agyemang Asante: From Ghana to the World: Alpha Hour, Digital Media, and Transnational Pentecostal Power Nehemiah Lebrón-Gómez: From Groove to Witness: Popular Music, Celebrity Conversion, and Pentecostal Reception in the Spanish-Speaking Caribbean	
17.00 - 18.30	Meet the Publishers <i>Elizabeth Templeton Lecture Room</i> Chair: Professor Brian Stanley Joel Carpenter, Baylor University Press Tessel Jonquière, De Gruyter Brill Esther Newton, Langham		
18.30 - 18.45	Conference Photo in the New College Quad (weather permitting)		
18.45 - 19.30	Dinner Sponsored by Overseas Ministries Study Centre (OMSC) <i>Rainy Hall</i>		
19.30 - 21.00	This time we must sing! Professor Jean Kidula will lead us in a sing-along! <i>Rainy Hall</i>		

Friday, 12 June 2026		
9.00 - 10.30	Nairobi Panel (Plenary) <i>Elizabeth Templeton Lecture Room</i> Professor Joseph Koech Professor Elias Muhongya Dr Mary Kihuha	
10.30 - 11.00	Tea Break <i>Rainy Hall</i>	
	Paper Session 6a <i>Althaus-Reid Room</i> World Christianity, Popular Culture, Nation and Politics	Paper Session 6b <i>Elizabeth Templeton Lecture Room</i> Encounters and Negotiation
11.00 - 12.30	Chair: Marina Wang Ray Burbank: Swadeshi Christians and Grass Roots Patriotism in Nineteenth-Century Western India Songzan Xu: Should the Holy Spirit Be Patriotic? Ruth Lu's Canaan Hymns and the Politics of Grassroots Piety in Contemporary China Shinsung Han: From Mass Revivals to Dawn Prayers: Popular Religious Culture and Unification Discourse in Korean Christianity	Chair: Mark McLeister Emily Leigh-Pemberton: Mass Circulation of Chinese Christian Posters in Muslim areas in the late Qing and Early Republican Period Tomas Sundnes Drønen: Globalisation and Mediatization in Northern Cameroon Agetta Putri Awijaya: Unduh-Unduh: The Javanese Agrarian Spirituality in Christian Liturgical Calendar
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch <i>Rainy Hall</i>	
13.30 - 15.00	Closing Reflections and Discussion on the Conference Alexander Chow and Emma Wild-Wood Next Year's Conference Kyama Mugambi <i>Elizabeth Templeton Lecture Room</i>	

Yale–Edinburgh 2026 Delegate List

Aaron John	Lina Toth
Abimbola Adelakun	Luis Santiago
Agetta Awijaya	Lynn Yang
Alan Guenther	Mark McLeister
Alex Mayfield	Marvin Takyi Hanson
Alex Chow	MASIH SHAHBAZ
Alexis Balmont	Mina Lee
Alison Zilversmit	Natasha Klukach
Amanda Kim	Nathan Baker
Arun Jones	Nehemiah Lebron
Augustin Tchamba	Olivia Shaw-Lovell
Ben Aldous	Oluwaseun Abimbola
Brian Stanley	Prabo Mihindukulasuriya
Brianna Laboy	Qiu Qian
Calida Chu	Rachel Grandey
Cedric Mouzou	Rathiulung Elias
Claudia Alvarez	Rebecca de Jong
Chloe Starr	Retief Müller
Daniel Chow	Robert Owusu Agyarko
David Lewis	Ruby Ni
Elizabeth Marteiijn	Sayyoung Lee
Ellen Loucks	Scott Libson
Emily Leigh-Pemberton	Shakespeare Sigamoney
Emma Goldhaber	Shinsung Han
Emma Wild-Wood	Shuchen Hsu Hsiung
Ernest Perbi-Asare	Siu Hang Lau
Gary Burbank	Songzan Xu
Gloria Tseng	Soojin Chung
Jennifer Aycock	Sze Yee Sarah Pang
Jerusha Lieow	Tessel Jonquiere
Jieun Yoo	Tobias Brandner
Jörg Haustein	Tomas Sundnes Drønen
Joel Carpenter	Warren Beattie
John Carter	Xiaojing Wang
Kenneth Ross	Yu-huei Huang
Kevin Ward	Zavi-i Nisa
Kirsty Murray	Zihao He
Kobina Aidoo	
Kpanie Addy	
Kwasi Boakye-Yiadom	
Kyama Mugambi	
Lakeisha Aquino	