



BOOK RELEASE

The first annual *Yearbook of International Religious Demography* (Brill, 2014) was released in July.



ABOUT THE CENTER

Learn about the purpose of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity and the researchers behind the data.



LATEST FROM THE CENTER

Take a look at recent Center citations, publications, and presentations.



OUR DATABASES

See more about the Center's *World Christian Database* and *World Religion Database*.

The Inquiry

Issue 1
SEPTEMBER
2014

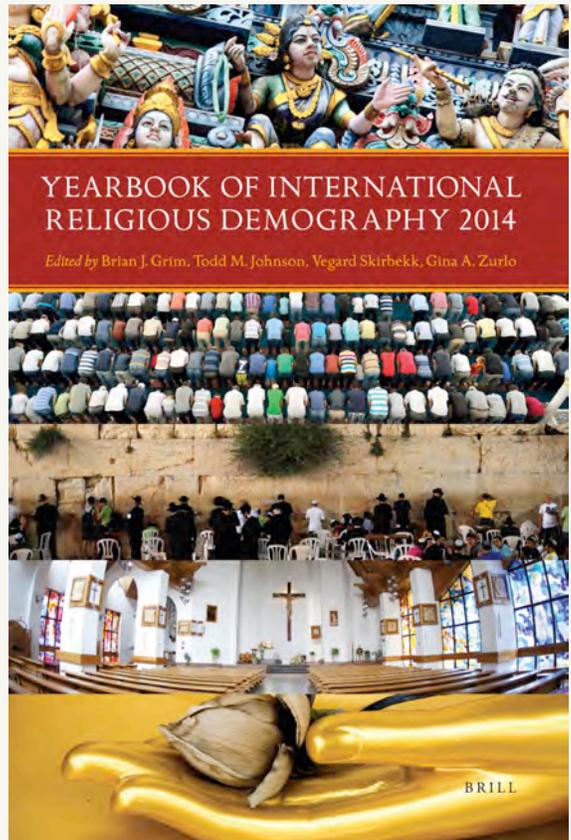
News from the **Center for the Study of Global Christianity** www.globalchristianity.org

Introducing an annual series

Published by Brill and edited by Brian J. Grim, Todd M. Johnson, Vegard Skirbekk, and Gina A. Zurlo

Yearbook of International Religious Demography

In partnership with Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, the Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project, and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis



When we present our findings in public settings, someone almost always asks us, "Where did you get these numbers?" We designed the *Yearbook of International Religious Demography* to help answer that question. Each edition of the new *Yearbook* will offer sources, methods, findings, and implications from the field of international religious demography. Censuses, surveys, polls, religious communities, researchers, and other sources produce large amounts of data on

religion every year. Research centers and scholars around the world, including our Center, collect and analyze these data. The *Yearbook* presents data of interest in tables and scholarly articles spanning the disciplines of demography, the social sciences, history, and geography. Annual assessments of new data available since the previous issue of the *Yearbook* will ensure that readers receive current information on the demographics of religion worldwide.

About the Center



The Center for the Study of Global Christianity collates and analyzes data on church membership and Christians' activities

collected by denominations, mission agencies, and other organizations around the world. Combining these with other relevant data, the Center provides a reliable view of global Christianity for research and strategic planning. Housed since 2003 at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, the Center traces its roots back to the 1960s and David Barrett's pioneering work in East Africa.

Among the world-class reference works produced by the Center are the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (Oxford University Press, 1982, 2001), the *World Christian Database* (Brill), and the *Atlas of Global Christianity* (Edinburgh University Press, 2009). The Center also has a strong relationship with Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, which hosts the *World Religion Database* (Brill) and produces other works in partnership with the Center.



Top row: Peter Crossing & Albert Hickman
Bottom row: Gina Zurlo & Todd Johnson



The Center's extensive and specialized library on religion, Christianity, demographics, research methods, and history of religion, spanning every country in the world.

“Ask them how many Lutherans there are in Mongolia, and how many Buddhists in Finland, they will within a few minutes come back with reasonably accurate numbers.”

SOCIOLOGIST PETER BERGER

Leadership

Todd M. Johnson

is Associate Professor of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Director of the Center. He is visiting Research Fellow at Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, leading the International Religious Demography Project. He is editor of the *World Christian Database* and co-editor of the *World Religion Database*, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, and the *Atlas of Global Christianity*.
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Gina A. Zurlo

is Assistant Director of the Center and a PhD student at Boston University. Her doctoral studies focus on the religious history of American sociology and her demographic research contributes to the *World Religion Database*. She is also Research Associate at Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs and was senior editorial assistant for the *Atlas of Global Christianity*.
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Albert W. Hickman

is the Senior Research Associate of the Center and was associate editor for the *Atlas of Global Christianity*. He focuses on collecting and analyzing denominational statistics for the *World Christian Database*. He also serves as liaison to groups such as Finishing the Task and the International Society for Urban Missiology.
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Peter F. Crossing

is the Center's Data Analyst. He gained computer mapping and database expertise through working at the Sydney Centre for World Mission, National Church Life Survey, and Mapinfo Australia. These positions led to his involvement with the *World Christian Encyclopedia* and subsequent publications. He currently maintains the *World Christian Database* and *World Religion Database*.
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The latest from the Center

Want to know more? See our website for links!

Presentations

American Academy of Religion

November 2013, Baltimore, MD

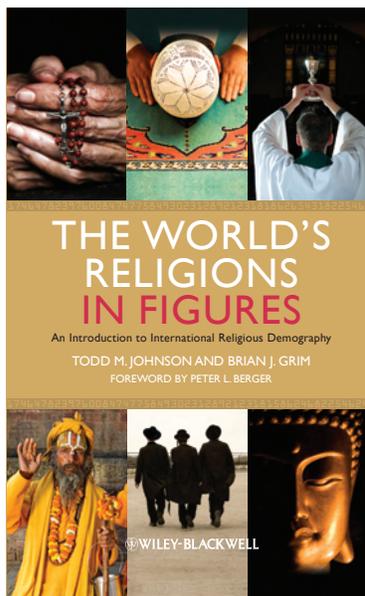


From left to right: Gina Zurlo, Juan Carlos Esparza Ochoa, Todd Johnson, and Gordon Melton present on international religious demography at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in Baltimore, MD.



In November 2013, Todd Johnson and Gina Zurlo joined with Juan Carlos Esparza Ochoa (Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project) to host a panel discussion on international religious demography—the quantitative analysis of religious populations worldwide. The session, moderated by J. Gordon Melton (Baylor University), was convened in response to one of the unexpected developments of the early twenty-first century—the increased prominence religion has assumed in academic fields, including history, sociology, and international relations. Todd provided a brief history of the discipline of religious demography, placing it within major trends in the history of sociology. Gina gave an overview of the methods used in religious demography, and Juan Carlos presented case studies on variations in religious liberty around the world. The presenters also addressed major findings of Todd's and Brian Grim's 2013 book

The World's Religions in Figures, the first comprehensive overview of the discipline of international religious demography, detailing what is known about religious adherents around the world.



Citations

May 2014: *Christianity Today* on the growth of Christianity & Islam worldwide

May 2014: *Harlan Daily* on the number of Christian denominations in the world

March 2014: CBN News on the number of persecuted Christians

March 2014: *New York Times* on the number of Christians in Iran

March 2014: *Huffington Post* on the growth of Christianity in Asia

January 2014: *Christian Post* on Christian embezzlement

January 2014: *Washington Post* on adherence figures for the world's religions

Publications

Johnson, Todd M. "The Impact of Ralph Winter's Thinking on Missiological Research in India." *India Church Growth Quarterly* (March 2014).

Johnson, Todd M. "The Demographics of Religious Conversion." In *Oxford Handbook on Religious Conversion*, edited by Lewis Rambo and Charles Farhadian, 48–64. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Johnson, Todd M. "Counting Pentecostals Worldwide." *Pneuma* 36 (2014): 265–88.

Hickman, Bert. "Global Survey of Theological Education." *New Urban World Journal* (May 2014).

Forthcoming

Johnson, Todd M., and Gina A. Zurlo. "Christian Martyrdom as a Pervasive Phenomenon: Critical Issues and Evidence." *Modern Society and Social Science*.

Johnson, Todd M. "Persecution in the Context of Religious and Christian Demography, 1970–2020." In *Christianity and Freedom*, edited by Timothy Shah and Thomas Farr. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Johnson, Todd M., and Gina A. Zurlo. "Ongoing Exodus: Tracking Emigration of Christians from the Middle East." *Harvard Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*.

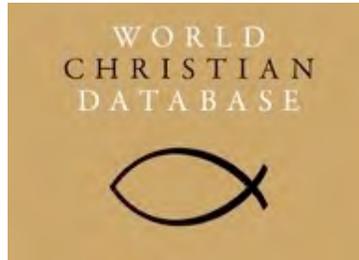
Johnson, Todd M., Gina A. Zurlo, Albert W. Hickman, and Peter F. Crossing. "Christianity 2015: Religious Diversity and Personal Contact." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*.

Our databases

World Christian Database Todd M. Johnson, ed.

The *World Christian Database* (Brill) is an online database that includes detailed information on 9,000 Christian denominations and on religions in every country of the world. Extensive data are available on 234 countries and 13,000 ethno-linguistic people groups, as well as 5,000 cities and 3,000 provinces.

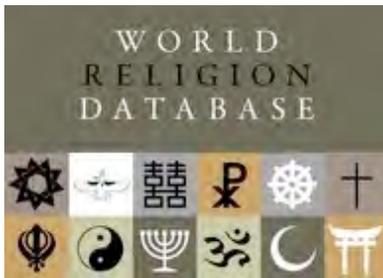
The database is found at
www.worldchristiandatabase.org



World Religion Database Todd M. Johnson & Brian J. Grim, eds.

The *World Religion Database* (Brill) contains detailed statistics on religious affiliation for every country in the world. It is the major source to render a definitive picture of international religious demography. The *WRD* provides both current and historical data, as well as sophisticated forecasts of future developments.

The database is found at
www.worldreligiondatabase.org



Upcoming

RELIGIOUS NEWS ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 20 (ATLANTA, GA)
Todd Johnson will present on the methodology of counting Christian martyrs.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FRONTIER
MISSIONOLOGY
SEPTEMBER 24 (ATLANTA, GA)
Todd Johnson will present on the quantification of frontier mission.

SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
RELIGION
NOVEMBER 2 (INDIANAPOLIS, IN)
Gina Zurlo will present on religious conversion at the SSSR annual meeting.

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
NOVEMBER 6 (SOUTH HAMILTON, MA)
The Center will host a lunch forum on the new *Yearbook of International Religious Demography*.

**Center for the Study of
Global Christianity**
at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary



Making sense of religious demographics

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