



TRACKING GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

New publications from Dr. Gina Zurlo



AT THE CENTER

Teaching and speaking engagements



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Consultations, media inquiries, upcoming events, and speaking engagements



THE INQUIRY

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

World Evangelical Alliance's Future of the Gospel Forum

CSGC Co-Director Dr. Todd Johnson traveled to Istanbul, Turkey for the World Evangelical Alliance's Future of the Gospel Forum, which took place from October 8 - October 12. Dr. Johnson gave a plenary talk with a vision of the future of the gospel being *for* all peoples and *from* all peoples. He posed five challenges for the attaining of this vision. First, Christianity must be identified as a global faith rather than a Western one. Second, he noted that peoples farthest from Christianity receive the least attention. As a third point, women do most of the work but are not included in leadership. The fourth challenge is that proclamation and demonstration as integral mission are essential to the gospel. Finally, most Pentecostals are Evangelicals but have not had a voice in global Evangelicalism. According to Johnson, although many still consider Christianity to be a Western faith, such perspectives can be acknowledged and de-centered in order for global voices to increasingly represent who the Church is.



Dr. Johnson speaking at the WEA in Istanbul

Presidential Inauguration Ceremony at WCIU

Dr. Johnson was in Pasadena, CA at his alma mater, William Carey International University, in September to celebrate the inauguration of President Paul Cornelius, PhD. Joining alumni from around the globe, Dr. Johnson had the opportunity to speak and pray for the new president. The event took place on September 22.



Dr. Johnson in Pasadena, CA at WCIU

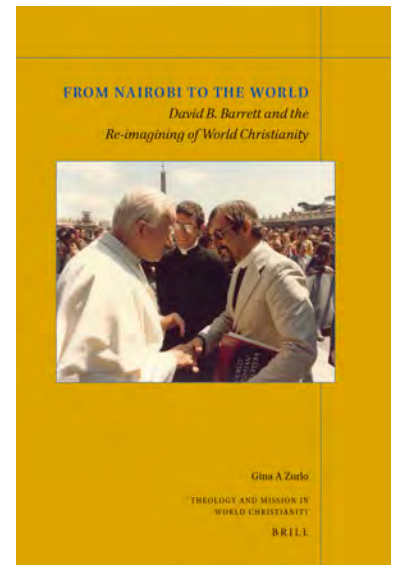
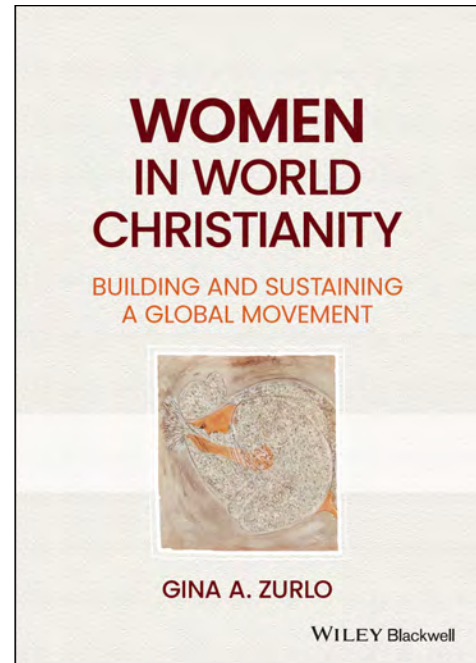
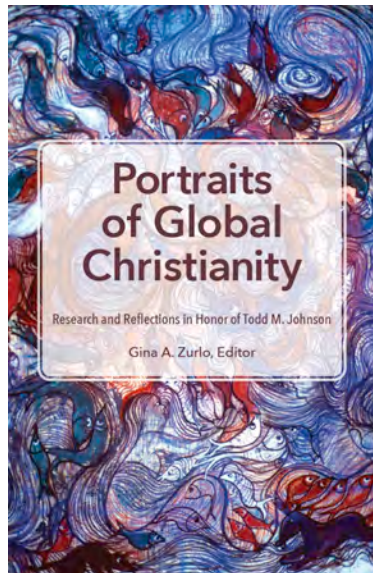
New Publications from Dr. Gina Zurlo

Women in World Christianity: Building and Sustaining a Global Movement (Wiley-Blackwell)

This latest book from the CSGC is available for purchase! As the first textbook focused on women's experiences in the founding, spread and continuation of the Christian faith, this data-driven work emphasizes women and their impact on missions and the Church in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It is organized by continent, tradition and selected topics including: gender-based violence, ecology, theological education and peace building. It introduces female theologians around the world, showcasing women's essential contributions to the global Church. For just \$47.95, get this important book designed to help students become aware of the unique challenges that women face worldwide and what they're doing to overcome them.

Portraits of Global Christianity: Research and Reflections in Honor of Todd M. Johnson (William Carey Publishing)

As reflections and essays written by colleagues and former students of Dr. Todd M. Johnson, this festschrift demonstrates a self-understanding of the relationship between World Christianity and individual experience by illuminating the transformative power of the former. Not only does this book celebrate the groundbreaking scholarship of Dr. Johnson and his profound contributions to the field of World Christianity, it holds pedagogical value in how it pragmatically challenges the reader to consider the growth of Christianity in the Global South and how one can seek out opportunities to cross ethnocultural boundaries in living out one's Christian faith. It costs \$35.99.



From Nairobi to the World: David B. Barrett and the Re-imagining of World Christianity (Brill)

This definitive biography of David B. Barrett analyzes archival materials of Barrett to paint a dynamic picture of the development of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*. It elucidates his significant contributions to African Christianity as well as the quantitative perspective of the history of World Christianity. It costs \$64.00.



Photo by Nicholas Brigante on Unsplash

“Where do you get your numbers?” An inside look into the work of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity - The Occasional

In a new blog post on The Occasional, facilitated by the Overseas Ministry Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary, Dr. Gina Zurlo named the #1 question asked during her presentations: “where do you get your numbers?” Giving insight into the methodology of the CSGC, she attributes the demographic study of religion to three major sources. Information gathered came from censuses where a religious and/or ethnicity question was asked, surveys and polls, and data from religious communities. All data collected are analyzed and reconciled to gain a most accurate representation of the religious make-up of a country or region.

Speaking

- American Academy of Religion (San Antonio)
- Templeton Religion Trust (Cambridge)
- Overseas Ministries Study Center Seminar (Princeton)
- GCTS Doctor of Ministry Residency (Cape Town)
- Princeton Theological Seminary World Christianity Conference (Accra)
- Rise in Strength Women’s Network (Amsterdam)
- Veritas Forum at Christopher Newport University (Virginia)

Teaching

HDS 2121 Trends in World Christianity, 1900-2050 (Harvard Divinity School - Fall 2023) Dr. Zurlo’s course covers past (twentieth century) and present (twenty-first century) trends in World Christianity from historical and social scientific perspectives. It explores many of the tensions in World Christianity today related to, for example, colonial/post-colonial realities, contextual theologies, race/racism, and global issues such as the climate crisis and religious freedom. This course has a particular focus on gender in World Christianity, where women make up the vast majority of churches worldwide yet are often denied leadership roles and decision-making opportunities. The course addresses topics unique to each continent (with a global South focus) as well as major Christian traditions -- Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Independents, Evangelicals, and Pentecostals/Charismatics.

CH/TH 621 Religions on the Silk Road: From Antiquity to the Present (Global Education Course in Uzbekistan and Turkey - Summer 2024) Taught by Dr. Johnson, this course explores the history of religions on the Silk Road from antiquity to present examining the impact of trade, translation, and interaction of world religions from Venice, Italy to Chang’an, China. For many centuries this historic trade route made it possible for travelers to discover the arts, crafts, spices and worldview of those very different from themselves. Some have suggested these camel caravans were examples of premodern patterns of globalization. Along the journey, one comes in personal contact with the majority of major world religions.

Media Citations

- Fulton, Angela Lu. [“As Mongolia Catholics Welcome Francis, Evangelicals Wrestle with Growing Pains.”](#) *Christianity Today*. August 31, 2023.
- Rocca, Francis X, Nicholas Bariyo and Gbenga Akingbule. [“The Competition for Believers in Africa Is Transforming Christianity and Islam.”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*. June 23, 2023.
- Zylstra, Sarah Eekhoff. [“The Growth of Good Theology in Africa.”](#) *TheGospelCoalition.org*. May 8, 2023.

ABOUT US

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity is an academic research center that monitors worldwide demographic trends in Christianity, including outreach and mission. We provide a comprehensive collection of information on the past, present, and future of Christianity in every country of the world. Our data and publications help churches, mission agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be more strategic, thoughtful, and sensitive to local contexts.

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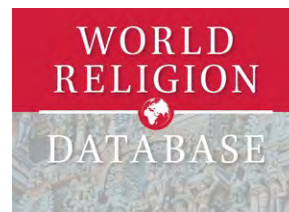


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