



TRACKING GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Spotlight on CSGC researchers



AT THE CENTER

Teaching and speaking engagements



CONTACT US

Consultations, media inquiries, upcoming events, and speaking engagements



THE INQUIRY

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission Global Consultation

From January 30–February 4, CSGC Co-Director Gina Zurlo traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand with 180 leaders to discuss and reflect on “our missions future.” Slightly more than half of participants were non-Western and many attendees were first-timers at the MC. Dr. Zurlo gave two plenaries, one of global Christian trends from 1900–2050, which detailed the demographic shift of Christianity to the global South and the growth of “non-traditional” kinds of Christianity, namely, house churches and cell movements. Her second presentation discussed the central role of women in World Christianity. This talk was particularly generative, sparking many discussions on the challenges and obstacles women face to live out their callings in both society and the church. Her conclusion dove-tailed with the theme of the consultation – if you want to discuss “our missions future,” you must consider women. The overall theme of the consultation was inspired by Dr. Johnson’s “invitation to the kitchen, not the table” motif of World Christianity, based on a Ghanaian proverb advocating for true inclusivity in community.



Dr. Zurlo speaking at the WEA Mission Commission

Annual Statistical Table

Our most-cited reference work is now available for free download online – the annual statistical table! Check it out for an overview of the world’s 2.6 billion Christians and their activities. We have translations available on our website of the 2022 statistical table in Arabic, French, Indonesian, Portuguese, and Urdu.

دنیا بھر میں مسیحیت اور دیگر مذاہب 2022 : ایک الجھا ہوا تعلق

جینا اے۔ زورلو، ٹاڈ ایم جانسن اور پیٹر ایف کراسنگ

عالمی مسیحیت کا مطالعاتی مرکز۔ گارٹن – کان ویل تھیولوجیکل سیمینری، ساؤتھ ہیملٹن ایم اے، ریاست ہائے متحدہ امریکہ

Annual statistical table title in Urdu

Spotlight on CSGC Researchers

Presentation on Medical Anthropology and Medical Missions

On October 22, 2022, Sonya Wang gave a presentation, “Medical Anthropology, Healthcare Spirituality, and Their Implications on Medical Missions Today: Islamic Faith in the Arab World and Folk Religion in Taiwan” at a workshop. The three-day workshop was hosted by the Centre of Mission and Global Studies, the Mission and Diakonia Archives and the faculty of Health Studies at VID Specialized University in Stavanger, Norway, with scholars from China, Korea, India, Ghana, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and North America presenting and discussing their research on the medical and healthcare service in contemporary times and the history of Christianity.



Sonya Wang at the Norwegian missionary house

Denominational Research & Writing

In 2022, Noah Karger worked on the preparation he did for the CSGC’s current round of denominational research. The purpose of this preparation was to improve on the methods and organization of previous denominational research. Because the project is so large, it can be difficult to maintain a certain level of coherence among researchers and data alike. To help with this, he headed up the creation of filing systems, templates, and progress trackers, all of which are currently being employed as the team gathers data on the denominations of every country around the world. Noah also co-authored a chapter on Christianity in the Southern US for the Edinburgh Companions to Global Christianity series. Independently, he published three articles and six book reviews, one of which was of Dr. Zurlo’s new book, *Global Christianity: A Guide to the World’s Largest Religion from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe* (Zondervan, 2022) for the *Review of Religious Research*.

Finishing the Task Global Leaders Gathering

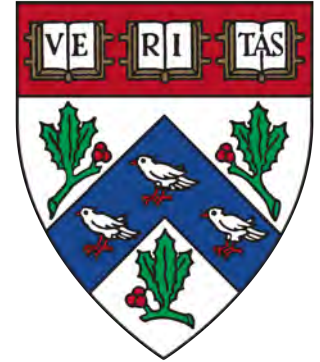
Research Assistant Shela Chan joined 277 Christian leaders representing 43 countries in San Juan Capistrano, CA from October 25–28, 2022 to participate in strategic conversations accelerating the work of the Great Commission. On behalf of Dr. Zurlo, she presented research from the Women in World Christianity project as a plenary speaker under the theme of “Taking Collective Action Toward Finishing the Task.”



Shela Chan with Rev. Dr. Lisa Pak at Finishing the Task

Announcement

In the 2023–2024 academic year, Dr. Zurlo will be a Yang Visiting Scholar in World Christianity at Harvard Divinity School. She will continue studying the gendered discrepancies between congregational membership and participation in Christianity by creating a new global dataset of women’s leadership in congregational life, and, more broadly, evince the urgency of including gender in scholarly analyses of World Christianity. The dataset, able to be used by researchers in World Christianity and the sociology of religion, will place gendered affiliation data alongside female participation data. Such information can be applied contextually to address the gendered dynamics of church life and interrogate unequal social norms that perpetuate women’s overlooked status in churches and societies worldwide.



Podcasts

- Interview with Influence Magazine (Assemblies of God)
- Interview with Honest Theology Podcast with Jonathan Barb, based in New Zealand
- Undeceptions podcast with John Dickens (Australia)
- New Books Network Global Christianity podcast with Byung Ho Choi

Teaching

CH/WM 653 A History of Christian-Muslim Relations (GCTS digital live) This course explores the complex relationship between Christians and Muslims throughout the entire history of Islam, giving attention to the historical and scriptural sources that speak on or about each other and their usage by Christian and Muslim interlocutors.

TH 847 Global Christianity, 1900-2020 (Boston University School of Theology) The course, co-taught with Dr. Dana Robert, analyzes dimensions of Christianity as a worldwide movement over the past one hundred twenty years. The course is framed by the demographic changes charted in the *World Christian Encyclopedia*.

Speaking

- Congregational Church of Amherst, NH
- Cambridge Center for Christianity Worldwide
- Princeton Theological Seminary World Christianity Conference
- Boston University’s Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs
- Oxford Center for Mission Studies
- New Wilmington Missions Conference (Westminster College, Pennsylvania)

Media Citations

- Harlan, Chico. “Over a million gather in an ecstatic Kinshasa to hear Pope Francis’s Mass.” *The Washington Post*. February 1, 2023.
- Earls, Aaron “7 encouraging trends of global Christianity in 2022.” *Kentucky Today*. December 27, 2022.
- McClellan, Hannah. “Christian Schools Building ‘Consortium’ for Hispanic Theology Education.” *Christianity Today*. November 23, 2022.
- Gaetan, Victor. “Catholicism in Nepal: A Small, Productive Church in the Himalayas.” *National Catholic Register*. November 2, 2022.
- Seidel, Livia Giselle. “Should Hispanic Churches Preserve Spanish in Their Services?” *Christianity Today*. October 7, 2022.

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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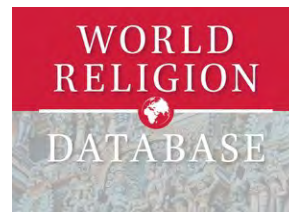
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