

Association of Professors of Mission

Annual Meeting

16-17 June 2016

Teaching Christian Mission in an Age of World Christianity

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the APM will examine the theme, “Teaching Christian Mission in an Age of World Christianity.” Mission and world Christianity are terms that seem to exclude each other. If Christianity is already a world religion, what is the need for mission? By the late 1970s, Andrew Walls drew attention to the fact that Christianity in the twentieth century was spreading and gaining most converts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America while at the same time Europe and North America were experiencing stagnation and decline in numbers and fervor. This demographic shift and the recognition of seeing Christianity as a world religion spread in all six continents has given way to conceiving the study of mission, ecumenics, and interreligious studies under the new nomenclature of world Christianity. The new field of world Christianity studies the Christian faith as expressed in all six continents placing emphasis on the experiences of the poor, women of color, and marginalized communities in the Majority World. These churches were called at one time in missionary circles the ‘receiving’ or ‘younger’ churches. Given that the majority of Christians now live in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and that the gospel was spread mostly through indigenous Christians, how are we teaching mission in North American colleges, universities, and theological seminaries? If the explosion of Christianity in the Majority World was possible because Christianity was already being contextualized by local agency, what role do the European and North American churches play today? Are the experiences of Christians in the Majority World at the center of our teaching of mission in North America? What are the new resources for teaching mission in an age of world Christianity?

Theological and Historical Perspectives on Teaching Mission in an Age of World

Christianity. What theological metaphors or models for excellent teaching and learning are most generative for thinking about teaching mission studies in an age of world Christianity? What historical, biblical, or theological factors seem to be contributing to the changes one observes in mission studies in an age of world Christianity?

Gender, Mission, and World Christianity. What changes in one's own teaching or in an institution's curriculum are necessary for promoting gender equality in mission studies? What case studies or other instructional methods best promote gender specific mission practices? What would the study of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America look like if scholars put women into the center of their research? Are there specific gendered missiologies emerging from Africa, Asia, and Latin America?

Anthropological Considerations for Teaching Mission in an Age of World Christianity.

How do different cultural contexts and related constructs (e.g. conceptions of the self, face, power-distance, etc.) affect teaching and learning for mission in an age of world Christianity? What strategies are most effective in working with such differences in any given teaching context or in a multicultural classroom? What are the ways for professors to mediate the spiritual experiences of Christians in the majority world to their students in North America?

Other subjects. Topics of particular interest to APM contributors but not directly related to the conference theme may still be submitted and will be considered by the conference organizers.

Persons interested in presenting papers may submit a proposed title with a 150-200 word abstract and a 30 word bio to APM president Angel Santiago-Vendrell at angel.santiago-vendrell@asburyseminary.edu by February 15, 2016.