

### Prosopography and Geography

MAPPING PEOPLE  
AND PLACES



KOREAN GLOBAL  
MISSION LEADERS  
FORUM



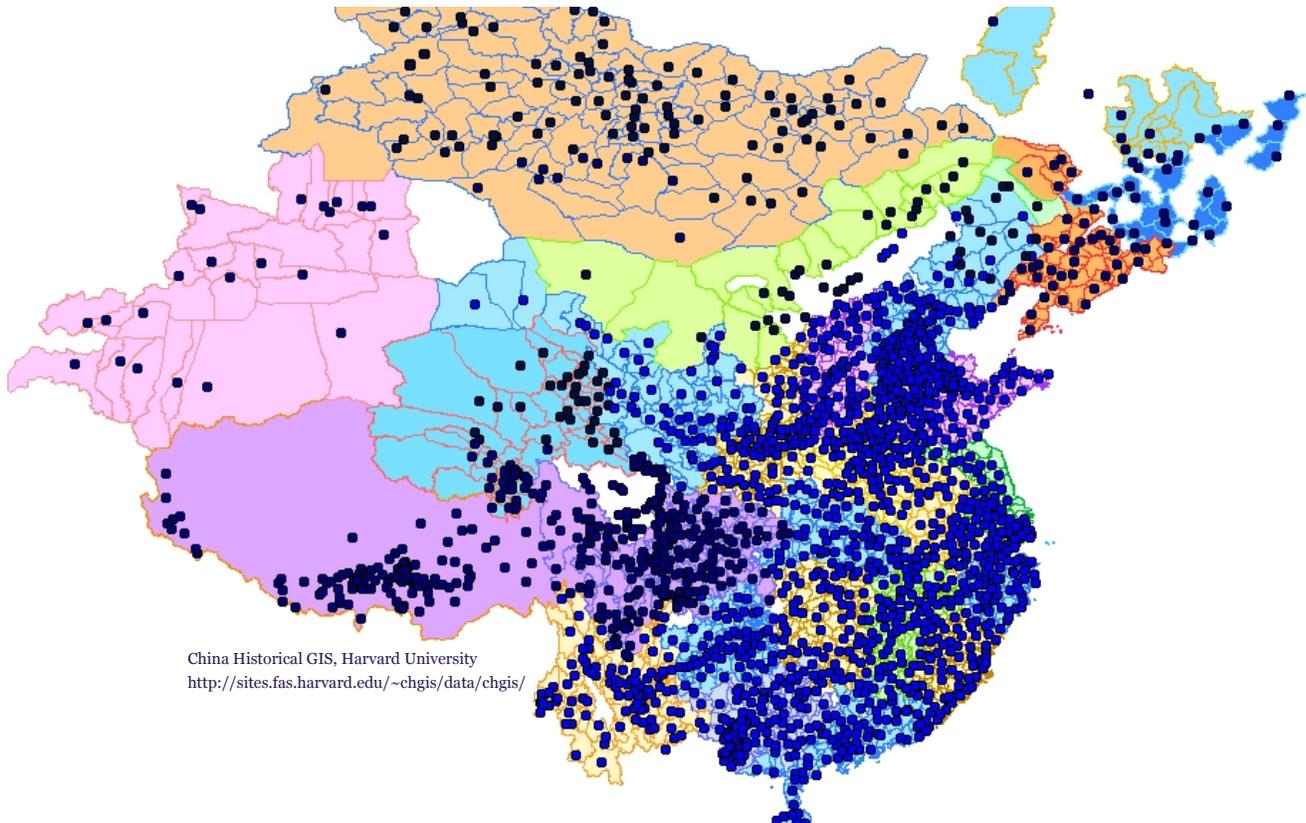
FOR THE LIBRARY  
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN  
BIOGRAPHY



UPCOMING EVENTS  
FALL SCHEDULE

# CGCM NEWS

## Center for Global Christianity & Mission



## Mapping Chinese Christianity

Nationalist historians and post-colonial theorists have tended to relegate Christianity in China to the status of “foreign,” thus rendering it peripheral to the story of the country. Yet, as recent studies have demonstrated, Christianity has undergone a process of localization and “sinicization” since its arrival in

So far, no existing effort has taken on the complicated task of organizing and making sense of spatial, temporal, and relational data pertaining to Christianity in China.

China, and the evolution of Chinese Christianity can actually provide a helpful window through which to view the revolutionary changes of identity, politics, and geography that took place in China during the modern period.

This summer, Professor Eugenio Menegon (Chinese History), together with co-investigator Professor Daryl Ireland (Associate Director of the CGCM) received a seed grant from the Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Sciences. Together they are developing a digital humanities project that will showcase the growth and development of Chinese Christianity from the 16th century until the mid-twentieth century.

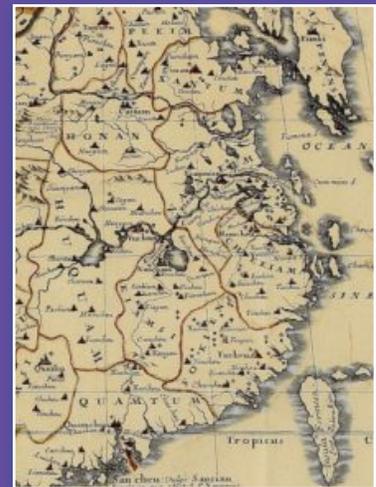
The project is conceptually managed by Alex Mayfield, a doctoral candidate in the History of Christianity at BU's School of Theology, with the voluntary assistance of Victor Huang, Computer Science major in the College of Arts and Sciences and current Treasurer of the BU Undergraduate History Association.

The winning DH project, titled *The China Christian Database: An Essential Digital Tool for the Cartography and Prosopography of Christianity in China*, has two major goals. First, it intends to create and populate an online relational database that will track major Christian institutions and people in China between the 16th-20th centuries. Second, it aims to make this data available for students, teachers, and general research purposes through a user-friendly online platform that includes both textual search and geographic visualization.

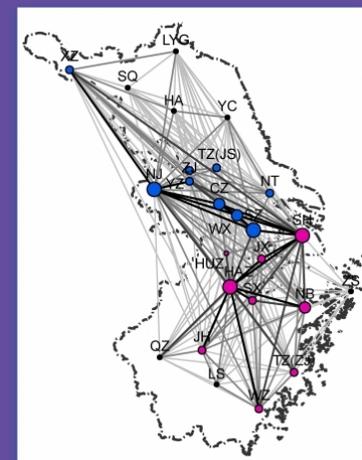
That aim is to address one of the most persistent challenges in the study of Chinese Christianity. It developed through historical agents who were highly mobile, whose relational networks were constantly in flux, and whose historical resources often remain disparate. Thus, it continues to be difficult to triangulate historical research and accomplish macro-analyses of Christianity in China. So far, no existing effort has taken on the complicated task of organizing and making sense of spatial, temporal, and relational data pertaining to Christianity in China.

This proof of concept grant will focus on the long-term feasibility of the project and prepare it for larger funding opportunities and collaborations with other institutions.

Maps of Chinese Christianity have always been popular, but digital tools allow maps to show change over time and reveal relational networks.

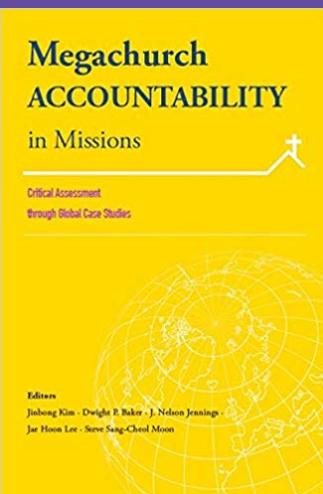
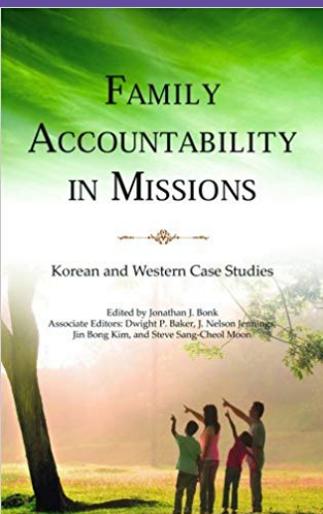
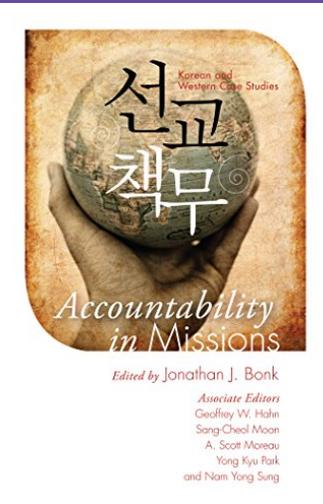


Map of the 200-odd Jesuit churches and missions established across China by the late 17th century, from *Confucius sinarum philosophus, sive, Scientia sinensis latine exposita*, Paris, 1687, [https://archive.org/details/confucius\\_sinarum\\_philosophus\\_sive\\_scientia\\_sinensis\\_latine\\_exposita/page/n1000/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/confucius_sinarum_philosophus_sive_scientia_sinensis_latine_exposita/page/n1000/mode/2up)



Liang Dai, et al. "Simulating infrastructure networks," *Belgian Journal of Geography* 2 (2016): <https://journals.openedition.org/belgeo/17087>

# Korean Global Mission Leaders Forum



Dr. Jon Bonk, CGCM faculty associate, has been serving as the president of the Korean Global Mission Leaders Forum (KGMLF). KGMLF has demonstrated a model of vigorous cross-cultural interaction and produced multilingual publications that address complex but overlooked issues bedeviling missions regardless of the sending or receiving country, mission society, or denomination involved.

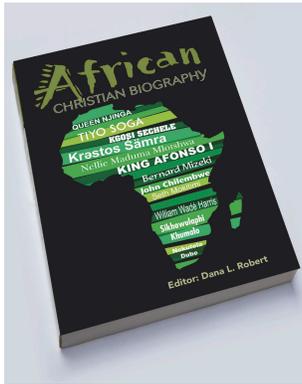
In February 10-14, 2011, a group of 48 men and women from around the world gathered at the Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC) in New Haven to identify and tackle complex issues relating to financial, administrative, strategic and pastoral accountability practices and lapses in Korea. WEC, OMF, SIM, IBM, and SEND international were represented, along with other agencies whose ministries intersected with Koreans, Korean churches, and Korean mission societies. Major Korean sending agencies—both independent and denominational—all took part.

The gathering produced the ensuing book (in Korean and English) *Accountability in Missions: Korean and Western Case Studies*. Two years later, the June 11-14, 2013 forum resulted in the publication of *Family Accountability in Missions: Korean and Western Case Studies* (OMSC Publications, 2013). In November 3-6, 2015 the third forum took place in Sokcho, South Korea, which resulted in the publication of the book *Megachurch Accountability in Missions: Critical Assessment through Global Case Studies*. Then, in November 7-10, 2017, KGMLF convened a forum on “Migration, Human Dislocation and Accountability in Missions,” and the proceedings will be published as *People Disrupted: Doing Mission Responsibly among Refugees and Migrants*.

Dr. Bonk is currently planning the fifth forum addressing the theme of “Missionaries, Mental Health, and Accountability in Church and Agency Support Systems” (June 10-14, 2019). The case studies for this forum will examine a range of issues and approaches relating to fostering and effectively restoring missionary mental health in contexts of ministry.

# African Christian Biography

The papers in this volume, edited by Dana L. Robert, narrate the histories of leading African Christians, and reflect on the meaning of African Christian biographies. Written to celebrate the *The Dictionary of African Christian Biography* (dacb.org), this volume shows why remembering the lives of Christian leaders remains important for understanding African history, Christian identities, and African contributions to the shaping of World Christianity.



*“African Christian Biography* presents us with a stimulating account of the Christian impact on the people and societies of Africa. The essays breathe with the intimacy of human struggle to give historical inquiry the vivid perspective of insiders as movers and shakers. The book reinforces the importance of biography for historical reconstruction and cultural innovation; it shows how the subjects of history, uninhibited by the boundaries and demarcations of conventional classifications, are critical for helping us understand events and the ideas that drive them.”

Lamin Sanneh • Yale University

The authors include some of the world’s leading scholars of African Christianity in its social, political and theological contexts. Subjects of the papers range from an Ethiopian saint, to kings and queens, history-making Protestant pastors, and women whose hidden stories undergird their transformative leadership of family, church and society.

The book is available from Cluster Books.

## Contributors to *African Christian Biography*

Jonathan J. Bonk • Michèle Miller Sigg • Stan Chu Ilo • Roger Levine

Emmanuel A.S. Egbunu • Wendy Laura Belcher • John K. Thornton

Linda M. Heywood • Stephen Volz • Mark A. Noll • Joanne Davis

Deborah Gaitskill • Heather Hughes • Barbara Mahamba

Wendy Urban-Mead • Maureen O. Iheanacho • Paul Glen Grant

## Fall Schedule

9.19 - “The Three Greatest Challenges Facing Us in the Next Decade.” David Scott, Mission Theologian of the UMC’s General Board of Global Ministries, @ 5 pm, 1 Silber Way, 9th floor.

9.27 - “The Latino City.” Jonathan Calvillo, Assistant Professor of the Sociology of Religion, will be on a panel asking what makes a city uniquely Latino? And in Latino-majority cities like Lawrence, MA and Santa Ana, CA, what does the “American Dream” look like? @ 12 pm, 75 Bay State Rd.

10.23 - “Holistic Mission and Sustainable Transformation in Burundi.” Daewon Moon and Jeonghwa Park @ 12:15 pm, 745 Commonwealth Ave., room 325

11.2 - “Cutting Edges of Mission.” Mark Gornik will be the plenary speaker at the 101st meeting of the Eastern Fellowship Professors of Mission @ the Maryknoll Mission Institute, Ossining, NY.

11.14 - “Chinese Christian Propaganda Posters.” Daryl Ireland will showcase the Luce-funded project that has digitized and made accessible hundreds of Chinese Christian posters online.