

## Alumna Spotlight

**GINA ZURLO ('17)  
RECOGNIZED BY THE  
BBC**



**AROUND THE WORLD  
FORTHCOMING TALKS  
BY CENTER FACULTY**



**CHINESE CHRISTIAN  
POSTERS  
CELEBRATING 1 YEAR**



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NEW PUBLICATIONS &  
PRESENTATIONS**

# CGCM NEWS

Center for Global Christianity & Mission



## Gina Zurlo Among BBC's 100 Women of 2019

Every year, the British Broadcasting Company's 100 Women project chooses 100 women from around the world who either made the news headlines or influenced important stories that year. They look for women with inspiring stories to tell or who have influenced their societies in ways that wouldn't necessarily make the news. The theme of this year's 100 Women events was "The

Gina Zurlo is the co-editor of the third edition of the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (Edinburgh University Press, 2020.)

Female Future”. What would the world in 2030 look like if women made all the decisions?

Gina Zurlo ('17) was contacted by the 100 Women project in July this year about her work on a project that uses computer modeling and simulation to project religious and non-religious populations worldwide. The BBC had questions about her demographic discoveries as Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. After several email exchanges and Skype conversations, she was invited to the 100 Women consultation in Delhi, India to give a talk on the female future of religion.

What she did not realize right away was that this meant she *was* one of the BBC's 100 most inspiring and influential women of 2019.

In Delhi, ten of the 100 women gave talks from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives. These women are in the boundary-pushing business. They push the boundaries of medicine by researching taboo topics like asexuality and male infertility; they push the boundaries of economics by advocating for a complete re-orientation of economics in relationship to women's labor; they push the boundaries of research by using new technologies to solve the world's problems.

To give a talk on the future of religion in that context was a special opportunity. In 2030, an estimated 90% of the world will be religious, with Christians and Muslims together representing 59% of the global population. More often than not, women have been the driving force to keep religious traditions alive through the generations. The data and trends point to an increasingly female future of religion. Dr. Zurlo hopes that will translate into a world where religion and science work together; where we can harness technology and women's intellect to promote human flourishing alongside religious communities; and where women can be leaders in all spheres of society.

## *On the Move*

In the Spring, CGCM Faculty Associates will be present at the following:

**January 3-6: American Society of Church History, New York, NY (Ireland and Robert)**

**February 27-March 10: Korean Global Mission Leadership Forum, Seoul, Korea (Bonk)**

**March 3-7: World Methodist/Roman Catholic Commission, Durham, NC (Westerfield Tucker)**

**March 11-14: World Christianity Conference, Princeton, NJ (Ireland and Robert)**

**March 19-22: Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA (Ireland, Menchick, and Menegon)**

**April 1-5: Toleration in Comparative Perspective, UC Berkeley (Menegon)**

**April 9-11: Western Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA (Menchick)**

**April 20-21: Research School Religion-Values-Society, Oslo, Norway (Calvillo)**

**May 13: Knox College, Toronto, ON (Robert)**



## Chinese Christian Poster Project Celebrates 1st Birthday

One year ago, the CGCM launched [cposters.com](http://cposters.com), a website to showcase the diversity of Christian posters printed in China in the first half of the twentieth century. The project was conceived with 250 posters in mind. At the time, it was an extraordinarily high number. Few people had seen more than a dozen. By the time the website launched on December 1, 2018, the CGCM had almost doubled its goal. It had collected 470 prints from 14 institutions that were spread across three continents.

Since its launch, the website has only grown. Seven more institutions have contributed or are digitizing posters to contribute to the collection. The site should have more than 600 posters visible by the end of the spring. But [cposters.com](http://cposters.com) is not only growing in content, but in viewers as well. It averaged 13,000 views a month in its first year, and is only growing in popularity. It now tops 20,000 visits a month, with most visitors coming from China, the United States, and Taiwan.

As windows into popular Chinese Christianity, these posters are unmatched. Baylor University Press recognized their value, and organized a workshop to put together a volume tentatively titled *Saving China: Chinese Christian Posters in an Age of Revolution, 1919-1951*. Scholars from



Baylor University Press Sponsored Poster Workshop at BU's School of Theology. From left to right: Lian Xi (Duke), Joseph Ho (Albion), Chloë Starr (Yale), Dana Robert, Cisca Ireland-Verwoerd, Daryl Ireland, Peter Zarrow (Connecticut), and Jade Carrell (BUP)

## Some Recent Publications and Presentations in 2019

Bonk, Jonathan. "Missionaries, Mental Health, and Accountability in Church and Agency Support Systems." KGMLF Forum, September 11-15, Sokcho, Korea.

Calvillo, Jonathan E. "Latinx Innovators in the Emergence of Los Angeles Hip Hop: Expanding the Intersections of Christianity and Hip Hop." In *Beyond Christian Hip Hop*. Edited by Erika Gault and Travis Harris. New York: Routledge Press, 2019.

Manglos-Weber, Nicolette. "Community Caregivers in Uganda: Delineating a Social Field." Development in Dialogue Conference, October 11-12, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Menchick, Jeremy. "The Spirit and/of Political Science: Building the Case for the Missionary Impulse in World Politics." American Political Society Association, August 29-September 1, Washington, DC.

Menegon, Eugenio. "Desire, Truth, and Propaganda: Lay and Ecclesiastical Travelers from Europe to China in the Long Eighteenth Century." In *Illusion and Disillusionment: Travel Writing in the Modern Age*. Edited by Roberta Micallef. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2019.

Robert, Dana L. "Naming 'World Christianity': Mission Scholarship and the Development of a Discourse, 1910ff." Keynote Address at the Colloquium on Mission History Turning Points, 1600-2000, September 11, Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut, Rome, Italy.

Wariboko, Nimi. "The Future of W.E.B. DuBois." UMBC's 41st Annual DuBois Lecture, November 13, Baltimore, Maryland.

different disciplinary backgrounds met in October to design a volume that will showcase these rare posters. With expertise in Chinese theology, political history, popular religion, visual culture, art history, and mission history, the book's authors will use posters to show readers dimensions of Chinese Christianity that have been otherwise overlooked.

In November, Daryl Ireland had the opportunity to invite those attending the oldest missiological society in North America, the Eastern Fellowship of Professors of Mission, to see how Chinese Christians "visualized mission."

In December, he was invited to speak at the British Library about how a project like this has made new resources available for scholars, students, and a curious public alike. It was showcased as one of the accessible and user-friendly "Resources for the Study of Religion in Asia."

That concluded the poster project's first year, but the CGCM hopes it is only the beginning. Chinese posters are revealing new and unexpected dimensions of Chinese Christianity.

