

## Machosi Colloquium

ECOLOGIES OF PEACEMAKING



COLLOQUIUM CALENDAR



RECENT GRADUATE  
EXPANDING MIGRATION  
THEOLOGY



GLOBAL CLASSROOM  
ALUMNI NEWS

# CGCM NEWS

Center for Global Christianity and Mission



## Remembering a Martyr

The Boston University School of Theology (STH) will hold the inaugural Fr. Vincent Machosi Colloquium on February 26-28, 2026. The event is dedicated to advancing dialogue and scholarship at the critical intersection of climate change, environmental justice, and conflict transformation on the African continent.

He paused his doctoral studies to document the violence connected to the pursuit of coltan, an ore used in cell phones.

This landmark event honors the life and witness of Fr. Vincent Machozi, A.A. ('15), who was a Catholic priest, humanitarian, and fearless advocate for human rights. He paused his doctoral studies at STH when different government and rebel forces in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo began fighting over coltan—an ore used in cell phones and computers. He felt compelled to document the rape and murder of what is estimated to be five million people. What he discovered appeared on his website Beni Lubero, making the hidden violence visible to the world. He was assassinated for his work on March 20, 2016.

To commemorate his work and witness for truth, justice, and healing, STH is marking the ten-year anniversary of Machozi's martyrdom with a conference: *Ecologies of Peace Making*.

## Machozi Colloquium

Around the globe, environmental degradation, violent conflict, and systemic inequality are deeply interconnected. From the extractive industries that exploit land and people, to the accelerating effects of climate change, these challenges demand a holistic response.

*Ecologies of Peacemaking* will convene scholars, practitioners, and faith leaders engaged in diverse African contexts to explore how communities—particularly religious communities—are cultivating justice, peace, and ecological resilience. Through interdisciplinary panels, theological reflection, and collaborative learning, participants will consider both the lived realities and the theological frameworks shaping peace building across the continent.

“Fr. Machozi's activism tackled some of the most significant ‘wicked problems’ of our time,” explains Nicolette Manglos-Weber, Associate Dean of Students & Community Life and Machozi Colloquium planning committee member. “This colloquium event will uphold his legacy by promoting interdisciplinary, community-engaged scholarship on those same issues; and by highlighting theologically sound and actionable models of peacemaking, ecological care, and social transformation.”

The colloquium will feature three distinguished keynote speakers: Dr. Dana L. Robert, William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor and minor field advisor to Fr. Machozi; Dr. Ambaye Ogato, Commissioner of the National Dialogue Commission of

## Machozi Colloquium Schedule

### Day 1 (February 26th)

4-5 pm: Opening Reception

5-6:45 pm: Plenary Address 1



Dana L. Robert:  
The Legacy of Fr. Machozi;  
response by Tom Porter

### Day 2 (February 27th)

8-9 am: Breakfast

9-10:15 am: Session 1 -  
Climate Justice and Activism

- Chris Davey
- Mark Shimave
- David Idowu
- Filipe Maia

9-10:15 am: Session 2 -  
Ecological Flourishing and  
Reforestation

- Samuel Cole-Osborn
- Stephen Warui
- Jessica Pulling
- Becky Copeland

12-1:30: Lunch

1:30-2:15 pm: Session 3 -  
Theologically Informed  
Social Movements

- Jason Brothers
- Fellipe do Anjos Pereira
- Zachary Mondesire

3-4:30 pm: Plenary Address 2



Amble Ogato: *Odyssey Towards Building a Nation: Ethiopia's National Dialogue and the Reimagining of Peacebuilding*

5-6:30 pm: Dinner

Day 3

8-9 am: Breakfast

9-10:15 am: Session 4 - Vincent Machozi's Legacy and Impact

- Daniel Karanja
- Elizabeth J. A. Siwo-Okundi
- Derrick Muwina

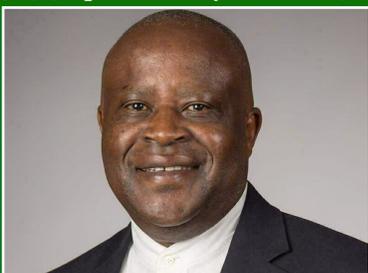
10:30-11:45 am: Session 5 - Interfaith Peacemaking

12-1:30 pm: Lunch

1:30-2:15 pm: Session 6 - Africana Theology and Ethics

- emilie townes
- Jimmy McCarty
- Nimi Wariboko

3-4:30 pm: Plenary Address 3



Fr. Emmanuel Katongole

Ethiopia, who is a renowned scholar and peace builder whose work offers deep insight into the intersections of ethnicity, religion, and national reconciliation; and Rev. Professor Emmanuel Katongole, Professor of Theology and Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, who is a leading voice in African theology. A Catholic priest from Uganda, Fr. Katongole brings a prophetic and pastoral perspective on reconciliation, ecological justice, and the church's role in addressing violence.

This event is open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. Meals from Thursday dinner (February 26) through Saturday dinner (February 28) will be provided for all registrants. To sign-up (\$50 - regular; \$20 - student), please visit: [tinyurl.com/Machozi](http://tinyurl.com/Machozi).  
— Adapted from Episcopal News Service

## Migration Theology

Over the past five years, Daniel's Montañez's research for his PhD has focused on the lived realities and experiences of Latino/a immigrant communities in the United States, and how to center the voices of these communities within larger public narratives on immigration. His work seeks to contribute to the field of migration theology, a field that is full of new possibilities.

In his recently defended dissertation ('25), Montañez focuses on constructing a Christian social ethic of migration from the perspective of Latino/a pentecostal undocumented pastors. He centers the voices of undocumented pastors within larger narratives of immigration in modern political discourse. In doing so, the migration theology he proposes is not a private intellectual endeavor, but profoundly public and grounded in community.

In 2019, Montañez founded the *My*gration Christian Conference, an annual gathering that brings together pastors, scholars, and non-profit leaders to explore how the stories of migration in the Bible speak to the stories of immigrants today. In 2024, they hosted their first Graduate Student Conference, and since then have brought together over 30 master's and doctoral students from across the country to contribute innovative scholarship to the new and burgeoning field of migration theology. This culminated in the founding of the Center for Public Theology and Migration in 2025, an organization with the goal of transforming narratives on (im)migration through theological reflection and redemptive action. To learn more visit: [www.theologyandmigration.com](http://www.theologyandmigration.com).

# The World is My Classroom

A Reflection on Teaching Global Christianity by Charles Farhadian ('00), Westmont College



Students and staff from Westmont College who participated in the inaugural semester-long travel seminar in Global Discipleship. Students earned credits for Religions in a Global Context, Decision Analysis, Travel Writing, and Physical Education.

For many years I envisioned taking students around the world to combine travel and study in order to provide the space for students to grapple with how they might serve the Triune God both domestically and globally. In the fall of 2025, that dream became reality.

Over the course of a semester, a team of 28 students and 5 staff traveled to South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the eastern Mediterranean, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe. It is one thing to study the statistics of global religions (and particularly of Christianity), yet it is quite another to live with and engage people of different religious faiths in the warp and weft of their lives, cultures, and societies. There's something crucially important about feeling the heat of the sun on your back, the spice of food on your tongue, and the uneven cobblestone surface below your feet. Religions are messy.

It's impossible to convey what we all learned, but I am convinced that there's no substitute for learning in context. With the burgeoning of digital learning, AI and the rest, tangible, fully embodied learning has become more unique yet necessary today. There's just no substitute for putting one's own body, mind, and spirit in a location to learn. To walk the roads, feel the breeze, sense what it's like to be a stranger, and learn directly from the faithful of different religious traditions.

Our group will spend a lifetime unpacking the experiences and memories we gained throughout our travels. The broad themes that stood out for me were the suffering church, the powerful influence of globalization, the challenge of nation making and the movement of asylum-seekers across the globe – and, of course, how the presence of immigrants is often linked to prejudices within the societies that receive them. Hearing stories from asylum seekers from Iraq, Sudan, and Iran drove me deeper into the current events in those countries that have motivated immigrants to seek safety and opportunity elsewhere. Finally, I was heartened to meet people from “every tribe, nation, and tongue,” who turned to the gospel of Jesus Christ for forgiveness and hope offered only in him. What a great reminder of the transcultural and contextual nature of Christian faith.