

GloPent Conference 2010 - Geographies of Conversion

The fifth international and multidisciplinary conference of the European Research Network on Global Pentecostalism (GloPent) will be held at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on February 19-20, 2010 under the title "Geographies of Conversion"

Recent research has characterized Pentecostal churches as instances of global religion par excellence. Many studies of Pentecostalism have focused on its aim to convert, to save souls, and have a strong emphasis on the empowering experience of the Holy Spirit and miracles among Pentecostal believers. While the relation between Pentecostal conversion and the opportunities and anxieties that go along with globalization and modernity has been one of the central foci of inquiry, the spatial dimension of Pentecostalism's global spread has received surprisingly little attention.

How can we see the global expansion of Pentecostalism in relation to earlier modes of spreading the Gospel? What is specific to the ways in which Pentecostal churches and movements relate to territories, to borders and to transnational spheres? How can we characterize their approach as a modality of the globalization of religion? How can insight into these processes benefit from a more explicit focus on space?

The study of Pentecostalism unites diverse fields such as geography, sociology, anthropology, theology, and history. Through its annual conferences the GloPent network aims to cross-fertilize and consolidate insights from these various disciplines.

This conference is also intended as the closing conference of the research project, funded by [NORFACE](#) and carried out by the GloPent network, on transnational Nigerian-initiated churches, networks and believers in three Northern countries.

Programme

Venue: [Faculty of Social Sciences](#), Metropolitan building (Buitenveldertse laan 3), VU University Amsterdam;
Tramstop: nr 5 or 51 direction Amstelveen, stop 'Boelelaan/VU'.

Friday, 19th of February 2010

09.00–10.00 Registration and coffee/tea (Z009)

10.00–12.15 Plenary 1: Pentecostalism and spatial practices: Chair: André Droogers (Z009)

Welcome by dean Anton Hemerijck

Kim Knibbe: *Introduction and state of the art*

Paul Freston: *Reverse mission, a discourse in search of a reality?*

Ruth Marshall: *A problem of presence: dilemma's of sovereignty and community in Pentecostal political theology*

Discussion

12.15–13.30 Lunch

13.30–14.30 Parallel sessions 1

a. Transnational Pentecostalism and urban spaces (Z007)

Linda van de Kamp: *Pentecostal navigation of the South-South map: Brazilian transnationalism in urban Mozambique.*

Katrin Maier: *Behind every great man is a woman. Intertwinement of men's and women's spatial discourses and practices of reverse mission in the RCCG London.*

Regien Smit: *Conflicting spaces in sacred places: African Pentecostals in the Netherlands*

b. Context and culture (Z009)

Alberto Moreira: *The global expansion of Brazilian Pentecostalism*

Andy Lord: *Pentecostal mission through contextualisation*

Nienke Pruiksma: *Places in relation: How does a transnational congregation live out its mission?*

14.45–15.45 Parallel session 2

a. Mapping religion, religious mapping 1 (7A06)

João Rickli: *Localising Dutch Protestants: missionary maps and the global identity of local communities.*

Jörg Haustein: *Mapping the Born-Again Believer: Conversion and Deliverance in Ethiopian Pentecostal Demonology*

Dena Freeman: *Economic and Moral Geographies of Pentecostalism in Southern Ethiopia.*

b. Conversion and religious markets (Z009)

Wessley Lukose: *Pentecostalism in Rajasthan, India and the challenge of Hindutva*

Roberta Bivar C. Campos: *Beyond the written word: Practices and the circulation of the charismatic Pentecostal message*

Laurence Muhlheim: *Completing the circle: China's East-West Missionary Project*

Viba Joshi: *Globalized Evangelical Christianity and Pentecostalism among the Naga of northeast India.*

c. The role of Christianity in constituting the places and spaces in diaspora (Z007)

Enzo Pace: *The West African Pentecostal Diaspora: Strategies of creativity and survival*

Annalisa Buttici: *Women in motion: The gendered space of the West African Pentecostal Diaspora in Italy*

Danielle Koning: *Cultural enclaves or reversed mission? Ethnic boundaries in the mission of immigrant churches in the Netherlands.*

15.45–16.15 Refreshments

16.15–17.45 Plenary 2: (Reverse) Mission to Europe (Z009)

Gloper/Norface project: *Reverse mission: Nigerian-initiated Pentecostal churches in Europe*

Ramon Sarró: *The futures of prophecy: Old hopes and new geographies for African prophetic churches*

Discussion

18.00 Dinner in town

Saturday, 20th of February 2010

09.00–10.30 Plenary 3: Historical Parallels (Z009)

Guy Thomas: *Conversion through map images: Missionary contact zones and the concept of persuasive cartography*

Martha Frederiks: *Geography as a theological notion*

Discussion

10.30–11.00 Refreshments

11.00–12.00 Parallel Session 3

a. Sacralization of spaces and Spiritual warfare (Z007)

Paivi Hasu: *Bringing back Zombies from the Land of the Witches: Pentecostal Charismatic idiom of resurrection and spiritual Warfare in the plural religious setting of coastal Tanzania*

Jeanne Rey: *Visible and invisible territories, spirit and migrant circulation in Switzerland*

Miranda Klaver: *Intimacy of Pentecostal space*

b. Charisma, territory and globalisation (Z009)

George St. Clair: *Building purity: Collective church construction in the Congregação Crista in São Paulo.*

Martijn Oosterbaan: *Global Christianity: Internet, cartography and community*

Alexander Horstman: *Faithful Encounters: Transnational Religion, Missionization and the Refugee Crisis in Mainland Southeast Asia*

c. Mapping religion, religious mapping 2 (Z113)

Geraldine Mossiere: *Back and forth or all over? Strategies of expansion and the Pentecostal remapping of the globe*

Rebecca Catto: *Reverse Mission: Change and challenge*

Tam Ngo: *Mapping the self: American Hmong converts as missionaries in Asia*

12.00–13.00 Lunch

13.00–14.30 Plenary 4: Spiritual and Diasporic Geographies (Z009)

Kristine Krause and Rijk van Dijk: *Geographies of attachment in Pentecostalism*

Gertrud Huewelmeier: *Back to Vietnam and South-East Asia. Pentecostal Vietnamese in Germany moving East*

Discussion

14.30–15.00 Refreshments

15.00–16.30 Plenary 5: Pentecostal and Charismatic Geographies (Z009)

Simon Coleman: *Fractal and fertile geographies in Pentecostal Mission*

Thomas Csordas: *Catholic Charismatic Communities: A Geography of the Spirit.*

Discussion

16.30 Conference Summation by Birgit Meyer (Z009)

17.00 Departure

This conference is initiated by the Glopent network and the NORFACE project researching Nigerian-initiated religious networks in Europe (see www.glopent.net). Convened under the auspices of the VU institute for the study of religion (VISOR) and the Hollenweger Center.