Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology

A leading center of research & reflection on the Church in the global South
The Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology (CWCIT) seeks to be at the forefront of the discussion about the relationship between globalization and the Catholic Church’s future as a truly worldwide Church.

Questions of peacemaking and social reconciliation inform our work and academic research, and to that end, each year we host several visiting theological scholars from the global South. In addition to being mutually beneficial and enriching, this intercultural intercambio, like the work of CWCIT itself, promotes tolerance and genuine bonds of solidarity between people whose particular cultural histories are in conflict.

While there is no philosopher’s stone, no “quick fix”, to end global conflicts or resolve long-standing theological arguments, CWCIT strives to promote a conciliatory tone in the midst of such strife through the highest quality academic research.

**Mission Statement**

CWCIT was founded by DePaul University in 2008 in order to produce research that will serve the Church and the academy. To fulfill the mission, it has paid special attention to the World Church that has emerged since the Second Vatican Council and its growth in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. While its focus has been on the present global communion of faith, it also attends to historical, theological, and cultural questions that will contribute to a fuller understanding of Catholicism and the dialogue of cultures today.

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**In 1900, only 25 percent of Catholics lived in the global South:**
Latin America, Asia, and Africa.
By the year 2000, that number had shifted to nearly 70 percent.

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**Highlights of CWCIT Events**

Throughout the year, CWCIT offers numerous lectures, roundtables, and other events for students, faculty/staff, and the broader community. And each April, CWCIT hosts numerous international scholars for World Catholicism Week, a celebration of the globally interdependent dimensions of the Catholic experience of faith. Here are some highlights of past events:

**Intercontinental Conference in Manila (Dec. 2014)**
With speakers from the Philippines, U.S., and Australia, “Theology, Conflict, and Peacebuilding” was CWCIT’s second conference abroad; it was co-sponsored with Adamson University, the St. Vincent School of Theology, & Dakateo, Catholic Theological Society of the Philippines.

**“New World Pope” Conference (Feb. 2014)**
Anticipating the one-year anniversary of Pope Francis’s election, this event featured speakers such as Rabbi Abraham Skorka, coauthor with Jorge Bergoglio of *On Heaven & Earth*; Francesca Ambrogetti & Sergio Rubin, journalists & coauthors of *Pope Francis: His Life in His Own Words*; and Andrea Tornielli, Vatican journalist & author of *Francis: Pope of a New World*.

**Bishop Paride Taban of South Sudan (April 2013)**
Awarded the U.N.’s 2013 Sergio Vieira de Mello Peace Prize for his founding of, and work with, South Sudan’s Holy Trinity Peace Village-Kuron, Bishop Taban spoke at the opening session of World Catholicism Week 2013.

**Witnessing: Prophecy, Politics & Wisdom (Nov. 2012)**
Commemorating the 23rd anniversary of the Salvadoran martyrs, this conference featured keynote speaker Jon Sobrino, SJ, and was co-sponsored with the Center for Theology & Human Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio (PUC-Rio) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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**Distinguished Speakers**

- **John Allen**
  Associate Editor, *The Boston Globe* & *Crux*
  Senior Vatican Analyst, CNN

- **Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ**
  Anti-death penalty advocate
  Author, *Dead Man Walking*

- **Jon Sobrino, SJ**
  Liberation theologian & author
  Director, Centro Monseñor Romero
  Universidad Centroamericana (San Salvador, El Salvador)

- **Bishop Paride Taban**
  Founder, Holy Trinity Peace Village-Kuron (South Sudan)
  Recipient, 2013 U.N. Sergio Vieira de Mello Peace Prize

- **Cardinal K. A. Turkson**
  President, Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace
  Archbishop Emeritus, Cape Coast (Ghana)

- **Maria Voce**
  President, Focolare Movement
What We Do

- Host visiting scholars each year from the global South
- Publish an annual book series
- Host an annual international conference, World Catholicism Week
- Present other events (lectures, roundtables, etc.) throughout the year
- Collaborate with Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) & St. Vincent School of Theology (Manila, Philippines)

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Catholicism’s center of gravity has shifted from North to South. Studying the visible movement of ecclesial tectonic plates becomes a mandate for new scholarship and a creative impetus for new forms of social engagement.

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