



Initiative for Global Christian Studies



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Our Vision

The campaign for the Initiative for Global Christian Studies (IGCS) at the University of Washington (UW) is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a long-needed program on the world's largest religion. This initiative breaks new ground at the UW and ensures the long-term study of global Christianity. The fulfillment of our bold vision will require a deep commitment and investment from our partners.

Why Now?

Religion matters in our world. It impacts every facet of our lives, including economics, politics, health and security. As the world's most populous religion, covering nearly a third of the globe, Christianity has influenced our history and our present. With full backing from the UW's College of Arts and Sciences, and strategic placement within the Jackson School, we are well-positioned to explore the impact of Christianity on global politics and culture. We invite partnerships with the larger community to fund this initiative for an unbiased and academic study of Christianity around the globe.

Program Updates



• **Dr. Hajin Jun** focused full-time on research this spring, thanks to receiving the Royalty Research Fund Scholar Award for the 2020-21 academic year. Her ongoing book project explores the impact of Protestantism on the politics of everyday

life in Korea under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945), tracing the story of how the introduction of Protestant Christianity not only transformed Korean ritual traditions, but, in so doing, also shaped the very meaning of religion itself.



• This spring, **Dr. James Felak** taught the inaugural quarter of his new course "Catholic Classics in Historical Context." 16 engaged students read selections from theological, apologetic, and

literary sources from writers such as Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, and G. K. Chesterton. This summer James is utilizing funds from the Newman Center Term Professorship in Catholic Christianity to research his next major book project, parallel biographies of four important figures from the Slavic world whose thoughts and actions were instrumental in helping to undermine Soviet Communist rule.



• **Dr. Chris Seiple** submitted his manuscript to Routledge for the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook on Religious Literacy, Pluralism, and Global Engagement*.

In his role as CGS Senior Fellow, Chris has spoken at several prominent forums this May and June. These included a presentation on conflict mediation and its implications for religion and peacebuilding at an invite-only discussion convened by the Swiss Government, and a talk on cross-cultural religious literacy at the Jewish-Evangelical National Leadership Conference. Chris is further collaborating on a panel for the "[Dare To Overcome Conference](#)," which will be held in conjunction with the 3rd Biannual Global Business & Interfaith Peace Awards and Tokyo Olympics this August.

Partnering with IGCS

Through the investment of committed friends, partners, and key UW faculty, IGCS is becoming the academic epicenter for the study of Christianity around the world. We'd like to thank those who have contributed to making this initiative possible.

Our vision for Global Christian Studies includes:

- Gifts from \$2,000-20,000 to support ongoing programming, administration, teaching, and funding student research.
- An annual endowed conference on Global Christianity: 1 million. Endowed funding for 2 MA/2 Ph.D.'s in Global Christianity: 1 million.
- Three more endowed professors in Global Christianity, so that the teaching of Christianity is protected at the UW: 4 million.
- An endowed Center for Global Christian Studies: 4 million.

WAYS TO GIVE

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UW Foundation | Global Christian Studies // Comparative Religion Program

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