



# 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** is deep in work on her book, *Protestantism and the Politics of Ritual Change in Colonial Korea*, which explores transformations of traditional ritual customs—including weddings, funerals, and ancestral veneration—under Japanese

colonial rule in Korea (1910-1945). During her upcoming trip to South Korea, she will collect additional archival materials for her manuscript.



▪ Thanks to funding from the Newman Center Term Professorship in Catholic Christianity, **Dr. James Felak** spent his summer researching his book, a parallel biography of four great Slavic figures who

were instrumental in the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe. One of his students from his course, "Catholic Classics in Historical Context," established a branch of the Thomistic Institute at the University of Washington. The Institute will host a visiting lecturer on aspects of Catholic intellectual tradition, and will

organize student activities such as book clubs. James is also a discussion leader for a group of students who are reading G.K. Chesterton's *Saint Thomas Aquinas: 'The Dumb Ox.'*



▪ **Dr. Christopher Tounsel** is excited to teach his pioneering seminar, *The Bible in Black History*. The class introduces students to the historical engagements that peoples of African descent have had with the Judeo-Christian Bible from antiquity to present.

## 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

#### Contact:

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Seattle, WA 98195

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#### Write a check:

UW Foundation | Global Christian Studies //  
Comparative Religion Program

#### Give online:

<https://jsis.washington.edu/religion/make-a-gift/>