

CHRISTIANITY & HISTORY FORUM

Empire and Missions Revisited - Saturday 25 November 2017

Westminster College, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0AA

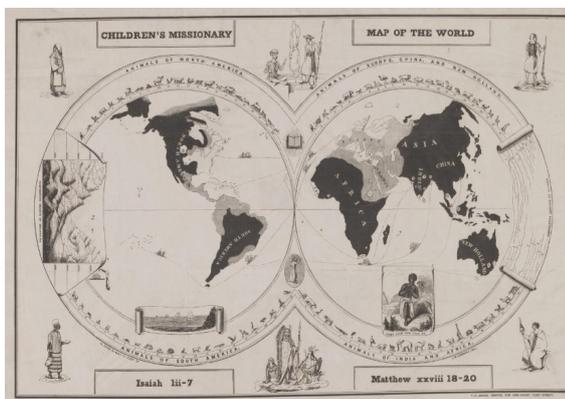


Image: Children's Missionary Map of the World from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-232450705/view>

Our theme of *Empire and Missions Revisited* takes us beyond conventional views of the easy overlap between missionary endeavour and imperial expansion. Presbyterians in 19th-century Brazil wanted to counter assumptions of US imperialism in Portuguese-speaking territory. British missionaries had to report to their public in 1914 an imperial war which shattered new-found global Christian unity. In the Congo, Anglicans needed to negotiate their place in a Belgian colonial territory and then in independent Zaire. These diverse experiences offer a chance for Christian reflection on the complexity of the relationship between empire and missions, and the challenges of teaching about it.

PROGRAMME

10.15am **COFFEE**

10.45am Pedro Feitoza (Emmanuel College, Cambridge) **Responding to the Charge of Imperialism: Brazilian Protestants and the Idea of 'Latin America', 1880-1930**

12pm Terry Barringer (Wolfson College, Cambridge: Asst Editor, *The Round Table*; Editor, *African Research and Documentation*) **'When you hear of wars and rumours of wars': Reflections on World War I in Missionary Periodicals**

1.15pm **LUNCH** Westminster College (included)

2.15pm Dr Emma Wild-Wood (Director, Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide) **Negotiating Political Authority: Anglicanism in the Congo, 1910-1990**

3.30pm **Round-Table Discussion on 'The Challenges of Teaching Empire and Missions Today'**

4.00pm **TEA** and close

Christianity and History Forum (formerly the Study Group on Christianity and History) has been in existence for over forty years. It aims to foster Christian thinking and scholarship on history, particularly (but not exclusively) the history of the Christian church.

PAPER ABSTRACTS

Responding to the Charge of Imperialism: Brazilian Protestants and the Idea of 'Latin America', 1880-1930

This paper aims to show how the idea of Christian unity, promoted by American missionaries in Brazil and reworked by a group of distinguished Brazilian ministers, provided Protestants with a set of ideas and identities they employed to respond to the charge of foreign imperialism raised by conservative Catholic intellectuals. Whereas the concept of ecumenism distanced Brazilian Protestants from the Catholic Church, it put them in closer contact with other missionary initiatives across South and Central America in the early twentieth century, when the idea of 'Latin America' was not fashionable among nationalist intellectual elites, who viewed it as intimately connected with US imperialistic notions of Pan-Americanism.

'When you hear of wars and rumours of wars': Reflections on World War I in Missionary Periodicals

In the long nineteenth century and on the eve of war in 1914, a significant minority of the British public, including children, based their image of and knowledge of the world beyond Europe on their reading of missionary periodicals. Protestant and Catholic missionaries from Britain, France and Germany were heavily invested in Africa. War broke out only four years after the great World Missionary Conference held at Edinburgh in 1910 which had focused and reinvigorated Protestant mission worldwide.

How did the missionary periodicals report the war and its impact on their churches and converts on the mission field and their supporters at home? How were they affected by censorship and self-censorship? Did they just tell their readers in Britain what they wanted to hear in order to keep up the flow of financial and prayer support when the war placed so many other demands on their supporters' energy, emotions and pockets? Can we discern different denominational emphases and interests? How did they react on the declaration of war? Did attitudes change over its course? And what hopes did they express at the conclusion of the peace?

Negotiating Political Authority: Anglicanism in the Congo, 1910-1990

The global Anglican Church is quite obviously associated with the British Empire. Scholarly discussions (e.g. Brian Stanley, Andrew Porter and Rowan Strong) have probed to what extent those missionaries involved in the spread of Christianity through Anglican channels can be considered imperialist. This paper examines the Anglican Church in an area which was not colonised by Britain – the Belgian Congo - and it provides evidence for the responses of African members, particularly clergy and evangelists, for their understanding of Anglican affiliation. The paper also provides a wider frame of reference than the era of colonialism and will begin its enquiry with the post-colonial age. The way in which the Anglican Church attempted to negotiate its position within Zaire gives some indication of how it understood itself during the colonial era.

For directions to Westminster College, please see RCL part of their website: www.westminster.cam.ac.uk

BOOKING FORM

Please return by Friday 17 November to Debby Gaitskell, 10 Leaside Avenue, London N10 3BU. For enquiries, please email dgaitskell@gmail.com or phone 020-84449024

I wish to attend the CHF day conference on 25 November 2017 and enclose my conference fee of **£25** per head (to cover room hire, teas and coffees, and lunch). Please make cheques payable to 'Christianity and History Forum'. Please also give details of any special dietary requirements.

Special student rate: only **£10** all-inclusive for the first ten students to apply (please give name of university).

Name

Address.....

Email & Telephone.....