

Challenging Mission Studies Crossing borders in Academia

May 24-27, 2011

Åkersberg Conference
Center, Southern Sweden

Nordic Institute for Missiology and Ecumenism (NIME) hereby invites PhD students and their supervisors as well as other academics working in the field of Mission Studies and Ecumenism to participate in our common Nordic conference and research course May 24-27, 2011, in Åkersberg, near Lund, Sweden.

What is at stake?

Mission studies is a relatively new discipline within the field of academic theology. The chief focus has been biblical, historical, systematic and critical study of theories and practises of Christian missions, understood broadly as expansion of churches, typically with emphasis on the last two hundred years. The NIME doctoral course debates this premise. While academic theology is under pressure and chairs in mission studies within European universities are closed down, the discipline of mission studies is growing elsewhere in the world. At the same time modern Christian missions are increasingly studied by scholars within a variety of academic fields, such as political and social sciences, literature, anthropology, history, education, etc. – but these studies are not defined as ‘mission studies’. This raises a fundamental question: **What is the future of mission studies?**

Call for Papers

Each doctoral student is invited to present one, or preferably two, papers: **one topical paper** (maximum 5 000 words); **one methodological paper**, which may also be a set of questions and problems (a brief 1 500 word paper). All papers will be approved by the organizing committee. Furthermore, please state your research topic when registering, so that topical session groups discuss the most narrow subject areas possible. Papers will be responded to by supervisors and researchers.

Deadlines for topical paper proposals:

Proposals (300 words):

January 17, 2011

Acceptance notification:

February 14, 2011

Paper, final draft:

April 1, 2011

Proposals and final papers must be sent to:

Elin Hankela at
elina.hankela@helsinki.fi

Speakers and Panelists

In order to start answering the question “**What is the future of mission studies,**” the **2011 NIME conference** focuses on the following themes and questions: **Prof. Brian Stanley**, Edinburgh University: Mission studies and history: Expansion or invasion – a changing paradigm? **Prof. Joel Robbins**, University of California, San Diego: Mission studies and social sciences: Mission and entrepreneurship – where and how does the Spirit blow? **Prof. Heikki Räisänen**, University of Helsinki: Mission studies and theology: What do mission studies have to contribute to theology and vice versa? **Prof. Tormod Engelsen**, School of Theology, Oslo: A historical review of mission studies as an academic discipline. **Prof. Viggo Mortensen**, University of Aarhus: A global review of mission studies as an academic discipline, **Assoc. Prof. Thomas Sundnes Drønen**, School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger: What are missiologists studying and for what purposes? **Prof. Kajsa Ahlstrand**, Uppsala University: What should missiologists study and for what purposes? **Senior lecturer Reggie Nel**, University of South Africa: Postcolonial Mission studies in Dialogue with Franz Fanon and Steve Biko

Registration / Fees

Conference Registration/Fees must be paid upon registration, no later than **February 1, 2011**. Please note that your registration is valid only when the fee is received.

Cancellations prior to **April 1, 2011** will be refunded 75% of the registration fee; no refunds after **April 1, 2011**.

■ Registration and conference fee: 1.250 SEK

■ Lodging and board, double room to be paid directly to Åkersberg Conference Centre upon arrival: 6.450 SEK

■ Lodging and board, double room, to be paid directly to Åkersberg Conference Centre upon arrival: 4.450 SEK

Registration and further information

You have to register for the conference at <http://nime.dmr.org>. In case you need assistance, please contact the NIME secretary at jaj@dmr.org (or see details below). Registration fee of **1.250 SEK** must be paid by bank transfer. Please indicate your name on the transfer and mark it ‘NIME 2011 conference’. Banking details are as follows:

IBAN: **DK7654700002038653**; BIC-code **NYKBDKXX**

Registration opens: **November 1, 2010**

Deadline for registration: **February 1, 2010**

Web registration form: <http://nime.dmr.org>

NIME secretary Jonas Adelin Jørgensen, C/o Danish Mission Council, Peter Bangsvej 1D, 2000 Frederiksberg C, Ph: + **39612777**; E-mail: jaj@dmr.org

Additional information

Conference Location

Åkersberg Conference Center (Stiftsgården Åkersberg)
Åkersbergsgatan 3, Box 199,
243 23 Höör, Sweden
E-mail: info@akersberg.nu

Åkersberg Conference Centre

(<http://www.akersberg.nu/>) is easily accessible from Copenhagen airport by a one hour train ride via Malmö and Lund. The Conference Centre is located in lush green surroundings, and the classical buildings boast of several comfortable single and double rooms, a library, a flower garden, a fire place, and a high-quality restaurant.