

Proposal for Seoul Conference of International Association for Mission

Dr. Klaas Bom, senior Researcher

Protestant Theological University, Groningen (NI)

Department: Beliefs

Mission Theology

Title: Studying the transformation of the perspective on the relation between Science and Christian Faith of students and academics in French-speaking Africa

The problematic relationship between science and religion seems to be part of modern Western heritage. The Western dominance on this domain of study is so strong that often it is overlooked that elsewhere alternatives visions are developed. With our research we want to study how the perspective of 'laïcité' introduced by the former colonizers and the related spiritual understanding of the Gospel by many missionaries, are elaborated and transformed in the actual discourse of Christian students and academics in Abidjan, Yaounde and Kinshasa. In the paper I want to present, I will explain the use we make of Group Model Building, a method often used in Management studies, in order to grasp the transformation of the old mission language into a new one. The research is taken place in close cooperation with the local and regional organization Groupes Universitaires Bibliques (IFES). This research is making a contribution to the development of a new and contextual French-African discourse on the relationship between science and religion, one of the most important instrument for the mission at African campuses.