

**14th Assembly of the
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES
August 11–17, 2016
Seoul, South Korea**

**Conversions and Transformations:
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

Mission beyond Onto-Theology: The Theology of *receptio dei*

In the twentieth century, theology of mission within Mission Studies with its focus on 'mission as *missio dei*' has continued the legacy of western metaphysics which has objectified 'God' within a rationalist framework, in other words continues to be trapped within onto-theology. But the twentieth century is also famously known for the Heideggerian 'end of metaphysics' or a critique of onto-theology which has opened up space for a new language to theologize about 'God'. However, this critique of metaphysics has not yet been sufficiently engaged within theology of mission.

In this paper I would like to begin with a critique of *missio dei* to reveal its onto-theological foundations. Then I articulate a critique of onto-theology and its rationality thus opening space for a post-rationalist theology. This critique of rationality, particularly in the famous Winch-Taylor debate, has taken place in the context of western rationality meeting other cultures and thus can be equally applied to a missional rationality that continues the metaphysics of *missio dei*. Building on this critique I would like to argue that in the understanding of mission as *receptio dei* we can find a new language to theologize about G-d that is authentic to the mission experience.

Using Jean-Luc's conception of 'the gift' and Sri Aurobindo's interpretation of the '*Parātpara* Brahman', I explore a theology of *receptio dei* which, I argue, not only resonates with the mission experience, but also enables Mission Studies to make a serious contribution to Post-rational theology.

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