



Exchange
Journal of Missiological and Ecumenical Research

Call for papers

Special issue

Jesus Christ and the Construction of Masculinities
in Contemporary World Christianity

As guest editors of this special issue of *Exchange*, we are issuing a formal call for papers on the theme of 'Jesus Christ and the Construction of Masculinities in Contemporary World Christianity'.

We are inviting authors who conduct original and critical academic research on men and masculinities in the multiple and changing contexts of contemporary world Christianity.

The papers we are looking for should particularly investigate the function of Jesus-traditions (i.e. texts, both canonical and non-canonical, images, symbols and doctrines about Jesus Christ) in the construction and/or transformation of masculinities vis-à-vis specific social, cultural and political issues in local contexts of world Christianity.

We are interested in empirical and systematical contributions that present cutting edge research

- from various academic disciplines, such as theology, religious studies, anthropology, gender studies and men's studies.
- from a wide range of theoretical perspectives, such as postcolonial, queer and feminist theory.
- from the full spectrum of Christian traditions, such as Catholicism, Anglicanism, Pentecostalism, various Protestant traditions, the Orthodox tradition, and local/independent forms of Christianity.
- from various local contexts in contemporary world Christianity, especially those which often are marginalized in Western academia, such as Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Oceania.

The objective of this special issue is twofold. First, the aim is to broaden the emerging scholarship on men, masculinities and religion, which thus far is largely located in Western religious contexts and scholarly traditions, and which has hardly taken into account that Christianity has become a world religion and that its growth in non-Western contexts has given rise to new concepts of masculinity. Second, the aim is to broaden the study of gender in world Christianity and in the various Christian contextual theologies, as this field of study has mainly focused on women and tends to monolithic representations of men and masculinity.

As is indicated by the concept of masculinities, we do not consider masculinity as an essential identity or a stable social location, but as plural, complex and fluid, acknowledging that male gender identities and men's positions in gender relations are socially constructed, are involved in processes of change, and can be subject of transformation. In this special issue, we particularly want to examine how concepts of masculinity, at the intersection with other social categories such as race, class, sexuality and ethnicity, are constructed, defended, contested or re-imagined in global Christian contexts.

Not only masculinities, but also contemporary world-Christianity is increasingly plural (in terms of confessions, regions, socio-cultural and political contexts). Therefore, this special issue takes the figure of Jesus Christ as a unifying focus to investigate masculinities in world Christianity. The central question is how texts, images, symbols and doctrines related to Jesus Christ (both the historical Jesus of Nazareth and the kerygmatic Christ) do function in the construction of male gender identity and

men's position in gender relations in specific contexts in world Christianity, and in relation to concrete social, cultural and political issues.

Submission and process

We are seeking papers of 6-7000 words (including references).

Please do not yet submit a complete article, but first submit a one-page proposal with the title and an abstract (400-500 words) of the article and a short biographical statement.

Proposals are to be submitted electronically to the guest editors, by 15 June, 2011.

Before 1 August, 2011, authors will be informed whether their abstract is accepted.

Once accepted, the full article should be submitted by 1 December, 2011. These articles will be sent for external and anonymous peer-review. Depending of the review reports, the editors decide whether the final articles are accepted, need to be revised or are rejected.

The special issue is scheduled to be published in January 2013.

About the guest editors

Dr. Adriaan S. van Klinken, Utrecht University. Email: a.s.vanklinken@uu.nl

Adriaan van Klinken is a lecturer and postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Religious Studies and Theology, Utrecht University. His research interests are in the study of world Christianity and the study of religion and gender, and in intercultural, postcolonial and queer theology. His current research focuses on dynamics of gender and sexuality in contemporary world Christianity, with a regional focus on sub-Saharan Africa and a thematic focus on masculinities and HIV&AIDS. As a research fellow of the Centre for Intercultural theology, Interreligious dialogue, Missiology and Ecumenics (Centre IIMO), Utrecht University, he has written a dissertation on changing concepts of masculinity among African theologians and in local church communities in Zambia in the context of the HIV epidemic. He has published on a variety of topics, such as masculinities, homosexuality, HIV and AIDS in African Christianity in international journals such as *Missionalia*, *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, *International Journal of Public Theology*, *Exchange*, and the *Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality*.

Prof.dr. Peter-Ben Smit, Utrecht University / VU University Amsterdam. Email: p.b.a.smit@vu.nl

Peter-Ben Smit is Peter-Ben Smit is extraordinary professor of Old Catholicism ("Old Catholic Church Structures including the History and Doctrine of the Old Catholic Churches") on behalf of the Old Catholic Seminary at Utrecht University, lecturer in New Testament Studies at VU University Amsterdam, as well as an assisting priest in the Old Catholic parish of Amsterdam. He has published widely in the fields of New Testament Studies, Church History and Ecumenism. In his research, he is particularly interested in the construction of masculinity in Early Christianity; in his historical research he has also developed a focus on the history of Old Catholicism and the ecumenical movement, particularly focusing on relations with the Philippine Independent Church and Anglicanism. From 2006-2008 he served as on the Episcopal – Philippine Independent – Old Catholic commission on "Catholicity and Globalization." He has published on various aspects of these topics in journals such as *New Testament Studies*, *Novum Testamentum*, *Revue Biblique*, *Lectio Dificilior*, *Internationale Kirchliche Zeitschrift*, *Anglican & Episcopal History*, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, and *Exchange*.

About *Exchange*

Exchange is an established peer-reviewed international academic journal that publishes articles and book reviews on topics in the fields of intercultural theology, interreligious dialogue, missiology and ecumenics. The focus is on developments and critical issues in world Christianity and on contextual theologies emerging from the multiple contexts in contemporary world Christianity.

The journal is published by BRILL (Leiden) in cooperation with the Centre for Intercultural theology, Interreligious dialogue, Missiology and Ecumenics (Centre IIMO) of Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

See <http://www.brill.nl/exch>.