



IAMS Europe 2027 conference

Title: “Revival, Renewal and Conversion”? Mission, Memory, and Christian Witness in Contemporary Europe

Date: Wednesday 24th June to Sunday 27th June 2027

Venue : Vincentien Fernand Portal Centre, 97 rue de Sèvres, 75006 Paris

Organisers : International Association for Mission Studies Europe (IAMS Europe) and Association Francophone Oecuménique de Missiologie (AFOM)

The terms ‘revival’, ‘renewal’ and ‘conversion’ have been used historically in Christian mission both overseas and in the European continent. Yet in contemporary Europe, these terms can no longer be used uncritically. Researching mission in Europe invites participants to dwell in the creative tension of bringing together different theoretical and theological traditions. In a context marked by secularization, individualization and pluralization, there are many theoretical and practical questions to consider in analyzing how Christian mission unfolds today and impacts the future.

If the terms ‘revival’, ‘renewal’ and ‘conversion’ are proposed as points of creative tension in situations where there is no coherent religious memory to return to, and where institutional credibility has been forfeited, how can theologians and missiologists use them well? Do these concepts and related practices still illuminate the realities of Christian mission in Europe today, or do they obscure more than they reveal? Are they too Protestant, Western and colonial to be universally useful? Can terms which have been co-opted by nationalist politics or obscured by lack of institutional credibility be redeemed?

While the terms ‘revival,’ ‘renewal’ and ‘conversion’ often belong to the language of ecclesial change, redemption opens the broader question of how Christian mission names healing, restoration, and hope in contemporary Europe. Do theological terms mean anything in societies with sophisticated secular soteriologies of their own? What terms, concepts and practices do we need for engaging with the actual life of specific European communities when it comes to Christian mission, particularly in a context of migration and digital shifts which are altering the demographic and theological texture of European Christianity?

What can different denominational, non-denominational and theological perspectives and traditions – such as Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal and Anglican– contribute to rethinking or reframing mission in contemporary Europe? How do perspectives from different fields of research – such as migration, poverty, social cohesion or history – jointly contribute to understanding how Christian mission manifests at different levels of society in contemporary Europe?

The IAMS Europe 2027 conference aims to be a space for participants from across denominational traditions and academic disciplines to engage in a rich dialogue with each other about these terms and related phenomena, which are open to interpretation, debate and controversy. Contributors are invited to propose papers relating to mission in contemporary Europe that incorporate theologically and missiologically reflective research which is empirically grounded and/or theoretically informed.

Further information about call for papers, conference dates, venues and registration is available on the conference webpage: <https://iamsparis2027.eu>