

RYAN K. BOLGER

EDUCATION

*Fuller Theological Seminary*

2003 Ph.D., School of World Mission (Intercultural Studies)

1999 M.A., School of Theology (Theology)

1999 M.A., School of World Mission (Cross-Cultural Studies)

*University of California, Davis*

1986 B.A., Linguistics

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Yale Center for Faith and Culture: Theological Education Renewal Award, Fall 2005

Pastoral Leadership Project Dissertation Fellowship/Duke Divinity School 2001-2002

Contextualization Award, Fuller Seminary, 2002

Donald A. McGavran Award, Fuller Seminary 2001

Graduate Online Course of the Year from ACCESS and Christianity Today, 1999

SEMINARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Fuller Theological Seminary (2002-2008)*

**Associate Professor**

Church in Mission Fall 2008

Church in American Culture Fall 2008

**Assistant Professor**

Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2008

Researching Churches and Cultures Winter 2008

Transforming Contemporary Culture Winter 2008

American Culture, Social Location, and the Gospel (with Mark Lau Branson) Fall 2007

Church and Mission Fall 2007

Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2007

Theory and Methods of Cultural Research Summer 2007

Theory and Methods of Missional Church Summer 2007

Emerging Churches Spring 2007

Reimagining Church (with Doug Pagitt) Winter 2007

Church and Mission Winter 2007

Church Growth Fall 2006

Emerging Church (with Eddie Gibbs) Winter 2006

Transforming Contemporary Culture Fall 2006

The Spirituality of U2, Spring 2006 (with Barry Taylor)

Jesus the Missionary, Spring 2006

Emerging Churches, Winter 2006 (with Eddie Gibbs)

Transforming Contemporary Culture, Fall 2005

Cross-Cultural Apologetics, Fall 2005

Mission Strategy, Summer 2005

Global Leadership: Implications, Spring 2005

Global Leadership: Implications, Winter 2005

Jesus the Missionary, Winter 2005 (with Wilbert Shenk)

Global Leadership: Implications, Fall 2004

Global Leadership in Context, Fall 2003

Global Leadership in Context, Summer 2004

Global Leadership in Context, Summer 2003

Developing Your Learning Plan, Summer 2003 (with Bob Freeman)

Developing Your Learning Plan, Spring 2003 (with Bob Freeman)

Global Leadership in Context, Spring 2003

Developing Your Learning Plan, Winter 2003 (with Bob Freeman)  
Mission in Modern Culture, Fall 2002 (online)

**Mentor (2004-2008)**

Supervised thirty-four writing projects, nineteen independent studies, eleven tutorials, four methods.  
Served on seven doctoral committees, and mentored five doctoral students.

**Instructor (2000-2002)**

Modern Culture and Evangelism, Spring 2002 (Seattle)  
Emerging Church, Winter 2002 (with Mark Lau Branson).  
Reshaping the Church for Mission, Summer 2001 (with Eddie Gibbs).  
Thinking Missiologically, Fall 2000 (with Wilbert Shenk)

**Instructor/Web developer (1999-2003)**

Developing Your Learning Plan (Internet Course), Winter 2003 (with Bob Freeman)  
Foundations of Church Growth (Internet course), Winter 2001.  
Evangelizing Nominal Christians (Internet course), Fall 1999 (with Eddie Gibbs).

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*, co-author Eddie Gibbs (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House), 2005.

**Chapters and Articles**

"The Emerging Church," in *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, (Oxford: Blackwell), 2008.

"Communion and the Emerging Church in the US," in *Mass Culture, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, ed. Pete Ward (Oxford: Bible Reading Fellowship), 2008.

"Contemporary Perspectives on Worship: Emerging Forms of Worship in the US and UK" in *Worship that Changes Lives* ed. Alexis Abernethy (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker), 2008.

"Practice Movements In Global Information Culture: Looking Back To McGavran And Finding A Way Forward," *Missiology* Colume XXXV No.2 (April 2007), pp.181-193.

"Following Jesus into Culture, Emerging Church as Social Movement," in *An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, eds. Doug Pagitt and Tony Jones (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker), 2007

Landres, J. Shawn and Bolger, Ryan K. "Emerging Patterns of Interreligious Conversation," in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 612, No. 1, 225-239 (2007).

"Postmodern Forms of the Church", co-author Eddie Gibbs, in *Evangelical, Ecumenical, and Anabaptist Missiologies in Conversation: Essays in Honor of Wilbert R. Shenk*, eds. James Krabill, Walter Sawatsky, and Charles Van Engen (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books), 2006.

"The Local Church In Mission: Becoming A Missional Congregation In The Twenty-First Century Global Context," editor, Track 10A, *Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization*, Pattaya Thailand, Sept. 29-Oct. 6, 2004.

"The Evangelical Strategy of MTV," *Strategies for Today's Leader*, Fourth Quarter, 2001. Vol. 38, No.4.

"Dwelling, Distinctiveness, and Dialogue: The Missiological Triad of John Howard Yoder," *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, 1998, Volume 6.

### ***Dissertation***

"Jesus For And Against Modernity: Practice-Redemption As Missiological Response To The Rules Of The Modern Powers", Fuller Seminary 2003. Mentor: Wilbert R. Shenk Committee Members: William Dyrness, Eddie Gibbs.

### ***Popular Writing***

Landres, J.S., and R.K. Bolger. 2007. "Evangelical-Jewish Dialogue: The Emerging Conversation." *Sh'ma* 37/638 (May), 11.

Landres, J.S., and R.K. Bolger. 2006. Objevující se duchovní paradigmatata, DINGIR, [Emerging spiritual paradigms] (in Czech).

"Lesslie Newbigin and the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", Nov. 6, 2006  
<http://www.24-7prayer.com/cm/articles/784>

"Why Emerging Churches are Nonviolent", in *Next Wave* February 2006.  
<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue86/index.cfm?id=9&ref=ARTICLES%5FEMERGING%20CHURCH%5F156> .

"Please No More Doing Church for Them", in *Next Wave* November 2005.  
<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue83/index.cfm?id=6&ref=ARTICLES%5FMISSIONAL%5F92> .

"Brian McLaren is the Real Thing" in *Next Wave*, September 2005.  
<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue81/index.cfm?id=4&ref=ARTICLES%5FEMERGING%20CHURCH%5F53> .

"On Emergent", in *Next Wave*, in August 2005.  
<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue85/index.cfm?id=8&ref=ARTICLES%5FTHE%20BEST%20OF%202005%5F135>

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Academic***

"Emerging Church and the Future of the Seminary," *ATS SPAN Conference*, Orlando, 2008.

"How (Not) to Speak of the Church: An *Emerging/Emergent* Ecclesiological Conversation in a Postmodern World", with Veli-Matti Karkkainen and Peter Rollins, at the Yale conference on *Ecclesiology & Ethnography: Exploring the Emerging Conversation Between Theology & Congregational Studies*, Sept.27-29, 2007.

"A Missional Theology for Evangelical Seminaries – A Discussion Paper," with Mark Lau Branson, *Allelon Missional Schools Project*, Dallas, Feb 21-23, 2007.

"Transitions in Church Growth: Towards a Postmodern Church Growth Paradigm," paper, *American Society of Church Growth Annual Meeting* (2006).

"A History of Emerging Churches", paper, *S3K/Emergent Dialog*, hosted by Synagogue 3000, Stephen M. Cohen (Hebrew Union College) and Wade Clark Roof (UCSB), co-presenters; January 16, 2006.

"Donald McGavran and the Emerging Church," Paper, *American Society of Church Growth, Annual Meeting* (2004).

"Making the Transition: The English Church In Postmodernity", Paper, *Association for the Sociology of Religion, Annual Meeting* (2001).

***Popular Speaking on the Emerging Church***

Fuller Rabbi-Pastor dialogue at Leo Baeck Temple, June 6, 2007.  
 Congregational Transformation class (for Rabbinic students), University of Judaism, May 1, 2007.  
 Northwest LA Vineyard Area Pastors meeting, Jan. 24, 2007  
 Faith Forward – Crystal Cathedral. Jan. 23, 2007  
 blah! Tour, July 14-18 2006.  
 CMS Annual Retreat, July 19, 2006.  
 Alt. Worship Retreat, July 20-21, 2006.  
 “Modernity and Christendom,” National Pastor’s Convention, February 20-21, 2006.  
 Guest lecture, APU, Dec. 9, 2005.  
 College Briefing, Forest Home, Sept 2, 2005..

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Allelon Mission to Western Culture Project/Thinktank (2006-2012).  
 Lausanne Theology Working Group, Christopher Wright, Chair. (2007-2010).  
 Missional Seminary project with Allelon (2007-2010).  
 Board of Reference for “A Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future”, Spring 2006.

**SEMINARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

***Committee Work***

Senate Subcommittee responsible for academic courses and programs (2007-2008).  
 Faculty Senate (2006-2008).  
 Chair of the MA committee for two years (2006-2008).  
 MA committee for five years, (2003-2008).  
 Brehm Center Institute for the Study of the Emerging Church (2003-2008).  
 SIS faculty meeting for six years (2002-2008).  
 Joint Faculty meeting for five years (2002-2008).  
 Arthur Vining Davis classroom technology working group (2006-2007).  
 Academic integrity group in Spring 2006 (for Betty Sue Brewster).  
 SIS Assessment committee (2005-2006).  
 “Taking Fuller to the World”, a three year DVD project(2004-2006).  
 Flag committee task force for six months (2004-2005).  
 Horner Center’s Director’s team for three years (2002-2005).  
 Academic Director of the MAGL for three years (2002-2005).  
 MAGL committee for three years (2002-2005).  
 Restaurant Theology Group (2002-2005).

***Occasional Service***

Discussion with Sherwood Lingenfelter and various faculty regarding vision, October 2007.  
 iTunes U Executive Seminar Jan. 11, 2007.  
 SWOT/Context Analysis for Provost’s Council, Jan. 9, 2007  
 ATS Technology and Education conference, August 2004.

***Speaking Engagements -- Fuller***

“Micah 6:8,” Fuller Chapel, May 16, 2007.  
 “Emerging Church and Youth Ministry,” CYFM, January 9, 2007.  
 “Future of the Seminary”, at Fuller Charette, April 2006  
 Dean’s Advisory Council, December 2006  
 To Donors, New Year’s Day, Jan 2, 2006.  
 Dean’s Advisory Council, 2005  
 Fuller Board of Trustees, Sept. 13, 2005.  
 Connect conference for Extension Leaders, Summer 2005  
 Extension Directors Seminar, Spring 2005

Alumni gathering , Seattle, Winter 2005.

Guest lecturer for Foundations class -- Mark Lau Branson and Dick Peace/Kurt Fredrickson (every year)

Guest lecturer for Bobby Clinton

Guest lecturer for William Dryness

Guest lecturer for Bob Freeman

Guest lecturer for Eddie Gibbs (a few times)

Guest lecturer for Ron Hannaford

Guest lecturer for Mark Hopkins (twice)

Guest lecturer for Veli-Matti Karkkainen (twice)

Guest lecturer for Roberta King

Guest lecturer for Alan Roxburgh/Mark Lau Branson, Doctor of Ministry program. Guest lecturer for Wilbert Shenk (at least ten times)

Guest lecturer for Chuck Van Engen

#### **FAITH IN PRACTICE**

Weekend Today Show March 4, 2007, brief in-studio TV interview on emerging churches.

Featured in an ABC TV documentary, "Changing Face of Worship" which aired in December 14, 2003.

Southern California Public Radio, March 2, 2006, "Airtalk with Larry Mantle"

Southern California Public Radio. March 2003 "Talk of the Town" with Kitty Felde.

Washington Post, April 4, 2006, quoted in "Blackboard Blogging"

Los Angeles Times (twice)

Associated Press (October 2005)

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Missiology

Cultural Studies

Emerging Churches