

Global Research Institute (GRI)
School of Intercultural Studies (SIS)
Fuller Theological Seminary

Postdoctoral Fellowship Call for Proposals
Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue and Witness: Technology & Migration

The GRI program, in partnership with the Luce Foundation, is offering two six-month postdoctoral fellowships for two specific writing projects and welcomes proposals.

Fellowship #1: July to Dec 2019

Becoming Techno-Sapiens: Religious Practice in a Networked Era

Fifty years ago innovations and convergences in technology created the elements of what would become a networked global society. Every arena of human endeavor has experienced a revolution of sorts through the introduction of new technologies into its particular sphere. What is required is a gathering of technological and theological minds to make the connections across disciplines to more deeply understand our Networked epoch and how they might influence the mission of the church in 2020 and beyond. The time has come for articulation of a theology of technology – a theology of our contemporary Global Information Culture (GIC) – that can simultaneously serve and empower the mission of the church in a global context.

Strong proposals will address some of the following questions:

1. How have recent technological changes shaped humanity in general and what have been the implications of developments (the last forty years) in electronic and digital telecommunication for “techno sapiens” more specifically?
2. How has the emergence of our Global Information Culture (GIC) over the last forty years shaped the socio-economic realm around the world and what have been the implications of such for our political life more specifically?
3. How have GIC innovations during the last generation shaped human culture making around the world and what have been the implications of these elaborations for cultural and cross-cultural life more specifically?
4. How have GIC adaptations shaped religions in general and what have been the implications of such for specific religious communities and for interreligious encounter and relationship?
5. What has been the impact of our GIC on the practice of spirituality in general and what have been the implications of such especially for millennial communities across religious traditions?
6. What are the technological and informational contexts within which contemporary Christian communities are situated and what have been the implications of such for Christian life and discipleship more specifically?
7. How have recent technological and informational changes shaped Christian witness in general and what have been the implications of such for Christian mission in the 21st century?

Fellowship #2: January to June 2020

Migration, Interfaith Encounter, and Mission

The current era has been described as “the age of migration:” a combination of the opportunities afforded by globalization, on the one hand, and the growth of conflict, climate change, and inequalities, on the other, is fueling movements of people on a scale not seen since the aftermath of the Second World War. Among those migrating are religious communities and many of the conflicts that are driving migration are characterized as religious. This research will aim to develop a missiological response to migration that is attentive to its interfaith dimension.

Strong proposals will address some of the following questions:

1. What is driving the migration of religious communities globally, or in a particular region?
2. What does it mean for a religious community, or church, to be “on the move”? And in what ways does it relate to settled faith communities back home and/or in the new location?
3. How do different faiths resource migrants, spiritually? How do migrants interpret their experience in terms of their faith? Is migration desirable or not, from a particular faith perspective?
4. What are churches, and other faith groups, doing to address the practical problems faced by refugees, victims of trafficking, and other migrants? What religious tenets motivate this action?
5. What effect does migration have on religious identity? Why does it strengthen it in some cases but cause others to change their faith?
6. Why do many Evangelicals seem especially unwilling to show hospitality to migrants? Why are they particularly hostile to Muslims?
7. What can be done to shape Evangelical theology of mission in a way that incorporates biblical injunctions to welcome the stranger?
8. How has the rise of migration challenged Christian theology of religions to move beyond dialogue and peace-making?
9. What societal models do religious sources suggest to promote both social cohesion and religious freedom in multi-faith societies? Multiculturalism? Integration? Tolerance?
10. In what ways can religious groups collaborate to address issues of migration and/or to promote peaceful coexistence of religious communities?
11. In what ways can faith-based organizations (FBOs) challenge powerful governments, multinational corporations, and other drivers of migration, to seek the common good?

Applicant criteria:

1. have recognized PhD research degrees or their equivalent
2. comes from or is situated outside Europe and North America
3. able to come for six months to Fuller Seminary (can bring a spouse, but not children)
4. be able and willing to write a scholarly book on one of the proposed topics

For information on the GRI program, what is covered, and the application process, go to: <http://fuller.edu/gri/>, but in the email submission (to cmr@fuller.edu), be sure the subject line and cover letter specific: “GRI-Luce Application”; applications for proposals for these two specific programs will extend beyond the regular GRI fellowship annual deadline of April 1 but will be due no later than June 1, 2018, with announcement of fellowships made by 1 July 2018.