

# Decolonizing Churches

Ecclesiological Investigations  
International Research  
Network's

14th International Conference

June 22-25, 2022, San Juan, Puerto Rico

<http://sanjuan2022.ei-research.net>

“Decolonizing Churches” is the theme of Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network’s 14th international conference to be held June 22-25, 2022 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The conference will be held on the Metropolitan Campus in San Juan of Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico (UIPR), with support from Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, and other institutions.

Due to the continued global uncertainties of COVID-19, the conference will be conducted in a fully hybrid mode using Blackboard online technology. While we look forward to gathering in person, we are aware that some may not be able to travel or may choose not to travel. All plenary and simultaneous sessions will be streamed online through the Blackboard online learning system (registration in advance will be required).

Information on travel restrictions due to COVID-19 affecting Puerto Rico can be found on the webpage of the US Center for Disease Control at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Travel information for Puerto Rico can also be found at:

<https://www.discoverpuertorico.com/info/travel-guidelines>

Ecclesiological Investigations actively supports publication of papers that are delivered at its conferences. The network has a dedicated academic book series titled Pathways for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue that is published by Palgrave Macmillan, where selected papers from each conference are collected and published. Papers from previous conferences have also been published in the Journal of World Christianity and other academic journals.

Registration is required for all participants, including those participating online. For more information and to complete a registration, go to the registration page found at:

<https://sanjuan2022.ei-research.net/registration/>

For those who are participating online only, links for each session in Blackboard will be sent in advance of the conference so that you can join the program and participate. If you are not joining the conference online, see you in San Juan!

Wednesday, June 22.	
13.00-17.00 Lobby - 3rd Floor	<b>Registration</b>
18.30-19.00 Theater - 3rd Floor	<b>Opening Session</b> Moderator: Dale T. Irvin
19.00-19.45 Chapel - 1st Floor	<b>Welcome Liturgy</b>
20.00-21.30	<b>Plenary Session 1</b>
Theater - 3rd Floor	<b>Indigenous Voices of the Caribbean Decolonizing Churches and Christianity: Opening the Discussion</b> <i>Palmira N. Rios González</i> <i>Luis N. Rivera-Pagán</i> Moderator: <i>Juan Mejías</i>
21.30-23.00 SUM Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<b>After-party</b>
Thursday, June 23	
08.30-09.00 Chapel - 1st Floor	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
09.00-10.30	<b>Parallel Sessions 1</b>
SUM #1 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<b>Decolonizing the Global Church</b> <u>Beyond Eurocentrism: Orthodoxy, Nationalism, and Decolonialization</u> <i>Radu Bordeianu</i> <u>Decolonizing Oikoumene – The Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace as a Contribution to Decolonizing the World Council of Churches</u> <i>Miriam Haar</i> <u>Intercultural Theological Dialogue as a Contribution to Decolonizing the Anglican Communion</u> <i>Scott MacDougall</i> Moderator: <i>Raimundo C. Barreto Jr.</i>

<p>SUM #2 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decolonizing Latin American History</b>  <u>Enrique Dussel and the Task of Decolonizing Ecclesial History in Latin America</u>  <i>Stephen Di Trollo Coakley</i>  <u>The Religion of Albizu: Theology &amp; Faith in the Decolonizing Efforts of a 20th Century Puerto Rican Independence Movement Leader</u>  <i>Efrain Agosto</i>  <u>Decolonial Options for Local lay Leaders: A Comparison of Santa Teresa Urrea and Prophet Garrick Sokari Braide</u>  <i>Ryan Ramsey</i>  Moderator: <i>Ediberto López</i></p>
<p>10.30-11.00 Lobby - 3rd Floor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Break</b></p>
<p>11.00-12.30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Concurrent Sessions 1</b></p>
<p>SUM #1 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decolonizing Missions</b>  <u>Decolonizing the History of Mission: An Indonesian-Lutheran Perspective</u>  <i>Hesron H. Sihombing</i>  <u>Panama, Montevideo, and Havana and the Emergence of an Anti-Imperial and Indigenous Latin American Protestant Identity: 1916-1929</u>  <i>Philip Wingeier-Rayo</i>  <u>The Minjung and the Decolonization of the Canadian Missionary Movement</u>  <i>David Kim-Cragg</i>  Moderator: <i>Lydia Hernandez</i></p>
<p>SUM #2 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Destabilizing Empire</b>  <u>Transgressing Caste and Colonialism: Pandita Ramabai's Interreligious Belonging</u>  <i>Joel Daniels</i>  <u>Christocentric Theory and Method: Jesus Decolonizes Palestine and Subverts the Roman Empire in the Gospel of Luke</u>  <i>Lily Fetalsana-Apura</i>  <u>Renaissance of Ownership</u>  <i>Omar Palafox</i>  Moderator: <i>Henry Kuo</i></p>
<p>Room - 318 3rd Floor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Case Studies in Diaspora and Gender</b>  <u>Ecclesial Images and "La Gran Familia Puertorriqueña": Decolonizing Root Metaphors for Unity</u>  <i>Emanuel Padilla</i>  <u>Decolonial Christianity in the U.S.: An Indian Nasrani Perspective</u>  <i>Binu Mamparampil Varghese</i>  <u>Decolonizing Gender: Rethinking its Discourse in the Puerto Rican Christian Church</u>  <i>Rubén David Bonilla-Ramos</i>  Moderator: <i>Agustina Luwis</i></p>

Academic Senate 3rd Floor	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Church as Decolonial Sacrament</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Decolonizing the Sacrament/Rite of Penance/Confession/Reconciliation: A Diasporic and Ecumenical Exploration</u> <i>Kristine Suna-Koro</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Decolonizing Churches and the Right to the Sacrament</u> <i>Dale Irvin</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>I am Light: Seeing God in Others as Sacrament</u> <i>Gaye Coston</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: <i>Scott MacDougall</i></p>
12.30-14.00	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00-15.15	<b>Plenary Session 2</b>
Theater 3rd Floor	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decolonizing Filipin@ Christianity among Migrant-Settlers</b> <i>Cristina Lledo Gomez</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Oscar Cruz Cuevas</p>
15.15-16.00 Lobby - 3rd Floor	<b>Break</b>
16.00-17.30	<b>Parallel Sessions 2</b>
SUM #1 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decolonizing Knowledge</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Decolonial Colonization? Navigating the Colonial and Postcolonial in the Moluccan Protestant Church</u> <i>Jip Lensink</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Epistemic Violence: Decolonizing the Worlding and Othering of the Natives</u> <i>Delfo Canceran</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Decolonizing the Reformation: Centering Ethiopian Christianity, Decentering the Eurocentric Narrative</u> <i>David D. Daniels</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: <i>Craig Phillips</i></p>
SUM #2 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iglesias que Caminan más Allá de los Muros Eclesiásticos (Churches That Move Beyond Ecclesiastical Walls)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Más allá de la paz universal</u> <i>Carmenmargarita Sánchez De León</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Otras Liturgias Posibles (Other Possible Liturgies)</u> <i>Laurel Marshall Potter</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Response</u> <i>Claudio Carvalhaes</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: <i>Lydia Hernandez</i></p>
17.30-19.30	<b>Dinner</b>
19.30-20.45	<b>Plenary Session 3</b>

Theater - 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Decolonizing Synodality By Engaging Those at the Existential Peripheries</b>  <i>Bradford E. Hinze</i>  Moderator: <i>Elaine Padilla</i></p>
	<p align="center"><b>Friday, June 24.</b></p>
08.30-09.00 Chapel - 1st Floor	<p align="center"><b>Morning Prayer</b></p>
09.00-10.15	<p align="center"><b>Plenary Session 4</b></p>
SUM 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Decolonizing Ecumenism: Latin America and the Ecumenical Movement</b>  Raimundo C. Barreto Jr.  Moderator: <i>Miriam Haar</i></p>
10.15-11.00 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Break</b></p>
11.00-12.30	<p align="center"><b>Concurrent Sessions 2</b></p>
SUM #1 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Abya Yala Theology: Decolonizing the Christian Message from a Native Perspective</b>  <u>Decolonized Theology and the Implications of the Christian message in Abya Yala</u>  <i>Yenny Delgado</i>  <u>Identity, Descendant, and Borders</u>  <i>Claudio Ramírez</i>  <u>Response</u>  <i>Carlos F. Cardoza Orlandi</i>  Moderator: <i>Agustina Luvis</i></p>
SUM #2 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Local Knowledge and Grassroots Resistance</b>  <u>Decolonizing the African Churches in the Context of a Secular Public Policy</u>  <i>Patrick Giddy</i>  <u>Mujerista Theology's <i>Lo Cotidiano</i> as a Decolonial Epistemology of Resistance and Re-  Existence</u>  <i>Kenia Vanessa Rodriguez</i>  <u>The Song of Saint George: Anticolonial Resistance Mediated Musically</u>  <i>Aaron Hollander</i>  Moderator: <i>Héctor M. Varela Rios</i></p>
Room - 318 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Race, Theology, and the Church: A Transatlantic Conversation</b>  <i>R. Ward Holder</i>  <i>Cynthia Holder Rich</i>  <u>Response</u>  <i>Steven Savides</i>  Moderator: <i>Miriam Haar</i></p>

Academic Senate 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Teología del Nuevo Mundo</b>  <i>Oscar García-Johnson</i>  Discussion: <i>Raimundo Barreto, Elaine Padilla, Luis N. Rivera-Pagán</i></p>
12.30-14.00	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00-15.15	<b>Plenary Session 5</b>
SUM 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>The Church Underneath the Ground</b>  <i>Elaine Padilla</i>  Moderator: <i>Brian Flanagan</i></p>
15.15-16.00 Lobby - 3rd Floor	<b>Break</b>
16.00-17.30	<b>Parallel Sessions 3</b>
SUM #1 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Suffering and Liberation</b>  <u>Elite Capture and Decolonizing the Church of the Poor</u>  <i>Michael Lee</i>  <u>My Burden is Heavy: Power and Suffering in the Church</u>  <i>Britta Carlson</i>  <u>Arnulfo's Romero Ecclesiology and the Problem of Torture</u>  <i>Francisco Concepcion</i>  Moderator: <i>Rev Raul Santiago</i></p>
SUM #2 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p align="center"><b>Synodality, Conciliarity, and Cathophobia</b>  <u>Decolonizing Catholicity</u>  <i>Emilio Alvarez</i>  <u>Synodality as a Decolonial Ecclesial Practice</u>  <i>Brian Flanagan</i>  <u>Universalism's Imperial Paradox: Can Nationalism Be Conciliar?</u>  <i>Theodore Dedon</i>  Moderator: <i>Elaine Padilla</i></p>
17.30-18.00 3rd Floor	<b>Break</b>
18.00-19.00 SUM Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<b>Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</b>
19.00-19.45 SUM Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<b>Dinner</b>

	<b>Saturday, June 25.</b>
08.30-09.00 Chapel - First Room	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
09.00-10.30	<b>Concurrent Sessions 3</b>
SUM #1 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p><b>Interfaith and Diasporic Perspectives</b>  <u>Missiological Implications of Decolonizing Islamic Studies</u>  <i>Jose Abraham</i></p> <p><u>Colonization, Proselytism, and Conversion: Can Interfaith Dialogue Be the Answer? Pope Francis' Contribution</u>  <i>Roberto Catalano</i></p> <p><u>Decolonizing Christian Inclusivism: Understanding Universality and Religious Diversity and their Implications for Fostering Integrated Particularity within Interreligious Dialogue</u>  <i>Olisaemeka Rosemary Okwara</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Stephen Di Trolio Coakley</i></p>
SUM #2 Multiple Use Room - 3rd Floor	<p><b>No Holiness but Decolonial Holiness: An Ecclesiological Conversation of ReHace and Its Responses to Catastrophe and Social Justice</b>  <i>Héctor Varela Rios</i>  <i>Glorymar Rivera-Báez</i></p> <p><u>Response</u>  <i>Héctor F. Ortíz Vidal</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Aaron Hollander</i></p>
Room - 318 3rd Floor	<p><b>Decolonial Theory and the Church</b>  <u>Paths for a Decolonial Theology: Reflection Starting from de Sousa Santos</u>  <i>Debra Tonelli</i></p> <p><u>The Biopolitical, Immigration, Immunity, and Community</u>  <i>Craig Phillips</i></p> <p><u>Ecclesiology as Method: Deimperialization as Fundamental Decoloniality</u>  <i>Henry Kuo</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Cristina Lledo Gomez</i></p>
10.30-11.00 Lobby - 3rd Floor	<b>Break</b>
11.00-12.30	<b>Closing Plenary Panel</b>
Theater 3rd Floor	<p><i>David Daniels</i>  <i>Sandra Arenas</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Aaron Hollander</i></p> <p>Closing words: <i>Dale Irvin</i></p>
12.30-14.00	<b>Lunch</b>



# Conference Information

## 1. Registration Costs

Registration fee for this conference is 150 \$ for regular participants and 75\$ reduced rate (students, unemployed, retired). This goes both for online and onsite participation. This includes reception on Friday, June 24th.

Registration is available on the following page:

<https://sanjuan2022.ei-research.net/registration/>

## 2. Accommodation

The main housing accommodations for the conference will be dormitory rooms on the campus of UIPR. The University has several dormitories, also with a new facility. To make reservations, you can contact Dr. Ramón Ayala Díaz, Director of the Office of International Affairs, by phone 1 (787) 758-0837 or by email [rayala@intermetro.edu](mailto:rayala@intermetro.edu).

Dormitory rooms at UIPR come with one, two, or three single beds, so be sure to indicate when you make your housing reservations with the University whether you will be sharing a room with one or more persons. You should enter all the names of those who will be in a room when making a reservation. The University will not assign more than one person to a room without their agreement. Showers and restroom facilities are shared.

San Juan offers an array of hotels that range in price from moderate to very expensive. Most are located near the beaches in Condado, Ocean Park, or Isle Verde. These areas are approximately 15 minutes from UIPR by car. Participants who wish to stay in a hotel should make their own reservations. The TARDEL Travel Group can help with this process if needed.

Airbnb has become quite popular in Puerto Rico in recent years. As of November 1, 2021, there are a number of Airbnb apartments and houses available during the week of the conference located within 20 minutes walking distance or 5 minutes by car from the university campus. Reservations are made directly with the hosts through the Airbnb webpage.

## 3. Meals

Meals (except the ones mentioned above) needs to be covered directly by the participants. The UIPR food service is only open until 2 pm each day. Wed and Thur people will have to go into the neighbourhood for meals in the evening.

## 4. Travel Arrangements

The address of the University is Carretera # 1 (Highway # 1) and Calle Francisco Seín (San Francisco Sein Ave), San Juan, 00926. The University is located at kilometer marker 16 3 on Highway # 1. Please note that there is another Calle Francisco Sein located in a different neighbourhood in San Juan. The main entrance to the University is off Calle Francisco Sein.

More information on travel can be found here:

<https://sanjuan2022.ei-research.net/travel/>

## 5. In Event of Emergency

In Puerto Rico, the emergency number is 911.

In case of urgent questions regarding the conference, rooms etc. you can call private mobile number of Dale Irvin: 201-506-2337



# Sponsors



**Dormition of the Virgin Mary  
Greek Orthodox Church,  
New York**



**Dr. William Lee and Dr. Hwain  
Chang Lee for the Friday evening  
banquet in memory of David SUH  
Kwang-Sun (1931-2022)**



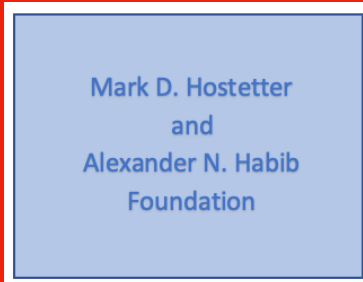
**Georgetown University  
Department of Theology &  
Religious Studies**



**Graymoor Ecumenical &  
Interreligious Institute**



**La Universidad  
Interamericana de Puerto  
Rico**



**Mark D. Hostetter and  
Alexander N. Habib  
Foundation**



**Patrick Grace and the Sarita  
Kenedy East Foundation Inc**



**Seminario Evangélico de  
Puerto Rico**



**The Union of Charismatic  
Orthodox Churches**