

INTERLINK

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From the desk of the coordinator

In the words of former Superior General Antonio Pernia, **Anthropos Institute (AI) should “act as the guardian of the Anthropos tradition of the Society”** (*VERBUM SVD* 45, 1 (2004), 34). This issue of *Interlink* presents the 2024 activities of AI individuals and institutions, dedicated to the social and religious sciences, within the global network of Anthropos Institute International (AII). These efforts contribute to academic scholarship and the continuation of the Anthropos tradition of the Arnoldus family.

Activities of Coordinating Council of Anthropos Institute International

The AII Council for 2022-2024 consisted of Roger Schroeder (USC) as Coordinator; and Stanislaus Grodż (GER) and Michael Sebastian Maria (INM) as members. After considering the consultative vote of AII members, the SVD General Council appointed the following for the triennium of 2025-2026: Schroeder (USC) as coordinator, and Grodż (GER) and **Roger Munsi Vanzila (JAP)** as AII Council members. We thank S.M. Michael for his years of service on the Council and welcome Roger Munsi.

March 2024 Council Meeting

The AII Council held a meeting via Zoom on March 1, 2024. The agenda of their meeting included: 1) report on Zoom meeting of six full AII members in India by S.M. Michael; 2) update on the Editorial Board of the journal *Anthropos*, for which four AII accepted the invitation, and Grodż will set up an initial Zoom meeting with the Board; 3) decision to prepare an AII Zoom discussion in July 2024 on “The SVD Contribution to the Mission of the Church: Role of Anthropology in Missionary Preparation, and Grodż will prepare a background paper with excerpts from articles written by AII members.

December 2024 Council Meeting

A second AII Council meeting was held in St. Augustine, on December 2, 2024 with S. Grodż, S.M. Michael, and R. Schroeder in-person, and R. Munsi via Zoom. The agenda of this meeting included: 1) long discussion (including D.

Piwowarczyk) on the need for lining up a new Editor-in-Chief for the *Anthropos* journalism who would not need to live in Germany [Action Step: Schroeder to send special message to AII members]; 2) follow-up on suggestion from the July 2024 Zoom discussion to remind the SVD General Council about the importance of anthropological and linguistic studies in initial formation; 3) follow-up on the need to combine the two sets of Anthropos Institute Statutes (General and AI-St. Augustine’s) Action Step: Grodż volunteered to work on this; 4) the *Anthropology and Mission Bulletin*, which was started in 1989, has now transitioned to being a 500-word entry in every *Arnoldus Nota*, starting in September 2024; 5) update of situation of the “Haus Völker und Kulturen” museum at St. Augustine’s; 6) personnel question of AII member; 7) next AII Zoom session in July 2025

Action Step: Schroeder will solicit suggested topics from the AII members].

Anthropos Journal: Editorial Board and Editor

A major 2023 initiative was the development of a new Editorial Board for the *Anthropos* journal. The AII Council, in consultation with the journal editor, D. Piwowarczyk, developed a proposed plan to establish a new mode of operation and oversight for editing the journal, which would not require residence in Germany, but would necessarily involve a number of AII members. The proposal was circulated among the members in August, 2023, and there was a very positive response by sixteen AII members that they were willing to contribute to this new editorial framework.

The new structure will consist of two groups. The Editorial Board itself will include a coordinator and about five other members and will serve as the “inner circle” to evaluate submitted manuscripts, formulate policy for the journal, and advise regarding special journal publications and the other two AII book series. The second group will be a wider circle of AII members who will do the actual editorial work on the accepted manuscripts.

Stanislaus Grodż sent out a letter in early 2024 to a select group of AII members with the invitation to be a member of the Editorial Board itself. Grodż agreed to serve as the coordinator, and Piwowarczyk, as the current Editor-in-Chief would also be on the Board. Four AII members agreed to serve on the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board during its first Zoom meeting on April 9, 2024, dealt with the following: 1) short introductions of participants; 2) description of current situation of the journal; 3) clarifying tasks of the editorial board; and 4) next steps.

Searching for a New Editor-in-Chief

In response to a call for a new Editor-in-Chief in 2021, an AII member came to St. Augustine's in 2022 to join the editorial staff. While he is able to contribute to editorial office work, he will not be able to become the Editor-in-Chief himself.

Action Step: During the AII Council December meeting (as noted above), it was decided that Schroeder would send a special invitation to AII members to consider becoming the Editor-in-Chief, without the necessity of moving to Germany. That person would work with the new international Editorial Board and with a small staff in St. Augustine's (with library and archives), but he would need local office space and support. We need to find a new Editor-in-Chief within the next 12-18 months, or we will need to be shutting down the publication of the journal in three years.

AII Zoom Discussions

In order to strengthen the AII network and provide on-going development, a Zoom discussion was held on July 30, 2024, on the topic "SVD Contributions to the Mission of the Church: Role of Anthropology in Missionary Preparation." The background for the discussion was drawn from excerpts from the following articles by AII members:

Required Reading:

Jon Kirby, "Anthropology and Mission in Ghana.
Ennion Mantovani, "Towards a New Vision for Anthropos Institute."

Recommended Reading:

Joachim Piepke, "Anthropos Institute: Basic Research.

Jon Kirby, "Language and Culture Learning in Evangelization."

The lively discussion centered around these questions: 1) Relationship and priority between pure science and applied anthropology; 2) Importance of anthropology for missionary preparation and work; 3) Examples of successes or failures in relation to point #2. Thirteen AII members participated in an engaging conversation.

Action Step:

Schroeder will send a communication to the new SVD General Council about the importance of anthropological and linguistic studies in initial formation. He will also contact the members for suggested topic and format for the next Zoom discussion which is proposed for July 2025.

AII Membership update

The following changes occurred in membership in 2024:

-- Zdzislaw Kupisinski changed from full membership to emeritus status. He became an AII member in 1998.

-- Joachim Piepke died on February 24, 2024. He had worked in Brazil and was a AII member since 1982. He was director of Anthropos Institute over 1986-1998, and then Director of Anthropos

Institute-St. Augustine's over 2001-2017. [Cf. "In Memory of Joachim Piepke SVD (1943-2024)" *VERBUM SVD* 65:1-2 (2024), 175-176.

-- Associate member Josef Thiel died on October 8, 2024. He became an AII member in 1983, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Anthropos* journal during the period of 1970-1977, and 1983.

-- Peter Knecht resigned from AII. He worked for most of his life in Japan and became an AII member in 1984.

These four men contributed very much to the work of Anthropos Institute.

-- There are currently thirty-seven full members, three emeriti, and three associate members for a total of forty-three members.

Interculturality activity

A fair number of AII members continued in 2024 to be involved in activities around the world related to interculturality with the SVD and SSpS congregations and many other religious congregations. AII members S.M. Michael and Roger Schroeder continue to serve on the SVD-SSpS **Resource Committee for Interculturality (RCI)**.

Activities of the Co-ordinator

AII coordinator Schroeder submitted the annual report on AII in February 2024, as part of the no. 36 issue of *Interlink* to the SVD Congregational Leadership Team.

In 2024, he met in-person five AII members living in St. Augustine, Germany; S.Michael in Steyl, the Netherlands, and Jon Kirby in Chicago. He had much email and Zoom conversations with many others.

Membership Reminders

AII members are strongly encouraged to submit articles and write book reviews for the *Anthropos* journal. If interested, contact our editor Darius Piwowarczyk at editorial@anthropos.eu.

The website for Anthropos Institute International is the need of and process of being updated (<https://www.anthropos.eu/anthropos/institute/index.php>). AII members are invited to send the following to Grodz at grodz@anthropos.eu for inclusion on our website: individual professional bio (and website link), and a paragraph description and website link for institutes with some AII affiliation. The homepage of Anthropos Institute on the SVD Curia website (<http://www.svdcuria.org>) also provides general information.

Please contact me, regarding any business related to the international network of Anthropos Institute at rschroeder@ctu.edu. Best wishes for 2025!

Roger Schroeder, SVD
International Coordinator of Anthropos Institute

Publications of the Institute

The **official publications of the Institute** are currently entrusted to the **Editorial Board at Anthropos Institute St. Augustine (AI-SA)**.

Staff

The Editorial Board at Anthropos Institut Sankt Augustin consists of: 5 SVD All members (Darius Piwowarczyk – the Editor-in-Chief, Vincensius Adi Gunawan, Othmar Gächter, Stanislaw Grodż, and Alexius Dungdung) and a number of lay workers. Joachim Piepke died in February 2024.

Publications

1. *Anthropos* 2024 (vol. 119) – two issues (ca. 750 pages altogether) were prepared. The first one appeared in late May/early June, the second one will appear in January 2025 (delay in typesetting). Vol. 119 contains 27 articles, 4 articles in a new section “Déjà lu”, 4 texts in “Reports and Commentaries”, and 127 book reviews. The section “Survey of Journals” offers an overview of the contents of ca. 140 journals specialized in the field of social and cultural anthropology and the study of religion. 71,5% of the articles were written in English, 17,1% in Spanish, 8,6% in German, and 2,8% in Portuguese. The authors come from 17 countries worldwide (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Spain, USA).

Two SVDs contributed articles to the volume, one a text of an obituary, and four wrote book reviews for the journal.

Anthropos is available on JSTOR. NOMOS gives the subscribers full access to the electronic version of the journal via its eLibrary (issues older than five years are freely available there but in a limited selection). The list of contents, abstracts and the link to eLibrary are available at: <http://www.anthropos.eu/anthropos>.

Fourth special issue of “Anthropos”: S. Cveček, B. Horejs (eds), *The Seasonal and the Material. Anthropology of Seasonal Practices*, Baden-Baden: Academia Verlag, 2024. (<https://www.nomos-shop.de/en/p/the-seasonal-and-the-material-gr-978-3-98572-188-7>)

2. *Collectanea Instituti Anthropos* – CIA 55

Alejandra Regúnaga y Christian Tauchner (eds.), *El Padrenuestro. Una mirada etnolingüística sobre sus traducciones a algunas lenguas indígenas de Latinoamérica*, Baden-Baden: Academia Verlag, 2024, CIA 55 (due to appear at the beginning of 2025).

3. *Anthropology & Mission* (A&M)

No. 69 (July 2024) – information about 32 books (prepared by O. Gächter and V. Adi Gunawan) and 25 articles (prepared by D. Piwowarczyk and S. Grodż).

No. 70 (December 2024) – information about 26 books (prepared by O. Gächter and S. Grodż) and 22 articles (prepared by D. Piwowarczyk, A. Dungdung and S. Grodż).

The bulletin appears only electronically at the

website of Anthropos (<http://www.anthropos.eu/anthropos/publications/anthropology-and-mission/index.php>).

The editors decided to cease the publication of A&M and contribute a short recommendation of books or articles relevant to the fields of anthropology and mission to every issue of “Arnoldus Nota” (AN) instead. These texts have been already appearing in AN since September 2024.

4. Other matters

The search for a new editor-in-chief of the journal is going on. If it does not bring any positive result, we will need to start taking steps to close down the publication of the journal (it should be a process that can still take some time).

Reports by Individual Members

These reports include publications, conference papers, teaching and other activities/events during 2024. Materials in press will normally be mentioned when they appear. Members, however, sometimes also report on their works in progress to communicate what they are currently working on. These reports reflect the great diversity and depth of the work of the members of Anthropos Institute International.

There are 30 individual reports.

Adigunawan, Vinsensius

Adigunawan is on the Editorial Board at Anthropos Institut Sankt Augustin.

Joachim Andrade

Andrade is Director of Anthropos – Brazil, the Coordinator of New Missionaries – BRS, and the elected Member of IAMS (International Association of Mission Studies) Executive Council as the Latin American Representative.

Teaching

- 1) In the Faculty of Vincentians Fathers, he taught Theological anthropology, Comparative study of religions and Ecumenism.
- 2) In the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, he is the professor of the department of Theology and having classes for the graduate students on Theology and Society.
- 3) He also taught courses on Interculturality and mission; Mission spirituality; Intercultural formation for the religious congregations in different parts of Brazil, especially in CCM – Brasilia.

Other Activities

- 1) Led retreats for the following:
 - a) Intercultural Mission to the Notre Dame sisters in Porto Alegre- Brazil.
 - b) Contemplative Sisters of Our Lady of Sion.
 - c) Saint John the Baptist Sisters in Belo Horizonte – Brazil.
 - d) Lay missionaries in the Archdiocese of Florianopolis – Brazil
 - e) Sisters Preciosinas in Belem – Brazil
- 2) Participated in the IAMS meeting in Kaulalampur – Malesia

- 3) Served as Moderator the Provincial Chapter of Sisters of the Divine Providence in Curitiba.
- 4) Served as Moderator of the preparatory commission for the General Chapter of the Divine Providence sisters in Curitiba.
- 5) Moderated the provincial Assembly of the Bernadine sisters in Porto Alegre – Brazil.
- 6) Participated in the Seminar on Anthropology and presented a paper on the theme: Disconnect to reconnect: lights and shadows of the new technology –7-8 de December 2024 Guwahati, India.
- 7) Gave a talk on interculturality and mission to the Pallotine Fathers in Santa Maria – Brazil.
- 8) Organized meeting of the SVD New Missionaries in Santarem – Brazil.

Bhaskar Das

Das is currently serving as Assistant Professor (Selection Grade) at the Department of Anthropology, DHSK College, Dibrugarh (Assam), India.

Resource Person:

Acted as a Resource Person in the ‘Blood Group Detection Camp’ organized by the Advanced Level Biotech Hub, DHSK College, Dibrugarh on 23rd March, 2024.

Paper Presentation:

- 1) Presented a poster entitled ‘Thalassaemias and Haemoglobinopathies among the paediatric population (1-12 years) of Upper Assam: A hospital Based Study’ in online mode (jointly with MSc Research student Ms Ashtha Borgohain) during 54th Annual Conference of The Indian Anthropological Society organized at Amity University Uttar Pradesh on 26th-27th September, 2024.
- 2) Presented a paper in online mode (jointly with MSc Research student Mr. Mridupawan Hazarika) entitled ‘A study on the aetiologies of oral cancer among individuals residing in the Lakhimpur district of Assam, India’ during 54th Annual Conference of The Indian Anthropological Society organized at Amity University Uttar Pradesh held on 26th-27th September, 2024.

Self Learning Material (SLM):

Wrote two Units of Self Learning Material (SLM) for the following two courses under Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

- 1) Course: Understanding Forensic Science through Anthropology
Block: Role of Anthropometry and Somatoscopy in Forensic Science
Name of the Unit written: Hair
- 2) Course: Physical and Biological Anthropology
Block: Fields of Physical and Biological Anthropology Past and Present
Name of the Unit written: Anthropological Demography.

Alexius Dungdung

Dungdung began his work with the editorial team of *Anthropos* in Sankt Augustin in 2023. The working-staff members here are very friendly, but the German language and the life remain a constant challenge.

- 1) For the journal *Anthropos*, he goes through the magazines and selects the relevant articles in the line of Anthropology, Culture and Linguistics. He has also begun writing abstracts for ‘Mission and Anthropology’. From February 2025, he will share the work of another member, who retired last year.
- 2) He took part in the Seminar organised by *Anthropos* in collaboration with the University of Bonn from 10th to 12th September 2024. The theme was “A Laboratory for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue? Missionary Collections at the Interface of Religion, Science and Global Society”. It was very relevant and informative.
- 3) Last September 2024, we, the SVD Confreres working in *Anthropos*, have decided to publish an abstract or review article of about 500 words or half a page every month in ‘Arnoldus Nota’. Since then, my role is to coordinate with the editor of ‘Arnoldus Nota’ and the confreres in *Anthropos*. From September 2024, we contributed our share to each issue. In the days to come, we will improve upon it and make it more systematic.

Othmar Gächter

Gächter is a member of the Editorial Board of *Anthropos* at *Anthropos Institut Sankt Augustin*.

Publications:

- 1) Co-editing with Vinsensius Adi Gunawan and Stanisław Grodz the “Review of Books” in *Anthropology & Mission* 2024/61+62.
- 2) Waser, Ernst, SVD, * 15.6. 1929 in Oberdorf bei Stans (Schweiz), † 7.9. 2023 in Lonko, Wankung (Indonesien), Erzieher, Jurist, Missionar, Pionier der Entwicklungshilfe. In: *Biographisch-Bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon*, Bd. 49, Nordhausen: Verlag Traugott Bautz, 2024/25.
- 3) Publication of a book review: Jacobsen, Knut A. (ed.): Hindu Diasporas. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023. 423 pp. *Anthropos* 119. 2024: 664-667.

Joshua Awienagua Gariba

Gariba is on the faculty of the University of Ghana, Legon.

Teaching:

Introduction to Social Anthropology and Societies and Cultures of Africa for level 400 and Sociology of the Family for level 600 (MA/MPhil) students of the University of Ghana, Legon.

Publications:

- 1) Gariba, J. A. (2024). We shall live: The Experiences and Responses of Women to Marginality in the Ongoing Alavanyo - Nkonya Land Conflict in Ghana, *African Journal of Social Issues* 7, (1): 1-16.
- 2) Gariba, J. A. (2024). Custom and Commodification: The Role of Earth Priests, Family Heads, Chiefs and Youth in Land Administration Among the Bulsa of Northern Ghana, *Ghana Journal of Geography*, 16, (2): 95-100.
- 3) Gariba, J. A. & Ibrahim, S. (2024). Resolving Chieftaincy Conflicts through Intercultural Dialogue: The Case of Bawku Interethnic Peace Committee in Northern Ghana, *Contemporary Journal of African Studies*, 11, (2):1-39.
- 4) Ibrahim, S & Gariba, J. A. (2024). Ghana’s Resilience to Terrorism: Costly Signalling of

Terrorist Groups or Strength of Counter Terrorism Strategy?, *Ghana Social Science Journal*, 21, (2): 69-87.

Other Activities:

- 1) In June, he organized the annual Cross-Cultural Reflection on Ministry (CCROM) program for confreres who are under 5 years in ministry and 3 Holy Spirit Sisters. The theme was: THEME: SELF ESTEEM, RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AND MARRIAGE The following topics were facilitated by three (3) resource persons.
 - a) Healthy Self-Esteem and Self-Worth Among Religious – Fr. David Selasie Agah, SVD
 - b) Leadership and Group Dynamics in Community and in Ministry – Dr. Doris Agblobitse
 - c) Anger Management and Conflict Resolution in Marriage – Fr. Alphonse Amanor, SVD
- 2) In September, he participated in the 8th Ghana sociological and anthropological association conference which took place at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Kumasi. The theme of the conference was: Sociological and Anthropological Discourses on Sustainable Development Goals
- 3) He is still offering service to his Alma Mater, The Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board.
- 4) He serves on the Board of the Fr. Andrew Campbell SVD Foundation
- 5) He is also a Board Member of the Br Tarcisius Prosthetics and Orthotics College at Adoagyiri-Nsawam. This college, which is affiliated to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi is owned by the SVD.

Sabbatical Year

Presently, I am taking up a visiting scholar offer at the Graduate School of International Political Economy and Development (IPED) at Fordham University, New York. I will also be offering courses at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Patrick Gesch

Gesch is Professor at Divine Word University (DWU) in Madang, Papua New Guinea, and the head of the Department for PNG and International Studies.

Teaching:

He signed a renewal of his teaching contract at Divine Word University, Madang, for another three years. He enjoys working with the students and trying to make them take their own education more seriously. His leading unit is “Traditional Village Religions”, which he insists is necessary to make the students job-ready. If they know who they are in terms of their religious background, then then will know what they can do.

Continuing Research Interests

- 1) He continues visiting the local village court, which is a weekly gathering out in the open under the coconut trees, and taking the DWU students along to see how justice is administered for the community benefit, whether within the rules or outside of the rules.
- 2) He is revising the memoirs of Fr Wim Valckx

SVD from his time in the East Sepik Province, so that these become resources available for research.

- 3) Gesch has been working on Riwo village men's initiation, but his fieldnotes covering historical and mythical origins have gone lost.

Final Visit to Negri

Gesch paid farewell to Negri parish in December 2024. He was active there from 1973 to 1983 and wrote his doctoral thesis from fieldwork there, in the context of an on-going, living cargo cult. Last month he visited the village near the station, Malimbanja, where 130 houses and domestic gardens had been burned and destroyed in July 2024. The large village has reverted to bush as the villagers have fled. The whole problem is attributed to a small group of youths, out of control with drink, starting things by killing one of their own members.

Günther Gessinger

Gessinger continues to contribute to the work at Anthros Institut Sankt Augustin. He keeps track of various new or older copies of the regular review subscriptions. He makes sure that our review copies or annual collections in carton boxes carry the respective signature label. He assigns to new entries in our review categories the new signature in the respective sequence on our shelves either on the floor for continued reviews or within the sequence of older series now discontinued but stored on our ground level.

Philip Gibbs

Gibbs is serving as the President of Divine Word University, in Papua New Guinea.

Publications:

- 1) Gibbs, P. (2024) Dialogue and Modern Ecclesial Politics in Papua New Guinea, *Verbum SVD* 65:1-2, pp 16-26.
- 2) Miranda Forsyth, Joanne Taylor, Tambri Housen, Celeste Marsh, Philip Gibbs and William Kipongi, Sorcery and witchcraft beliefs on the front line of public health response in Papua New Guinea and beyond. *Western Pacific Surveillance and Response Journal (WPSAR)* Vol 15, No 3, 2024 | doi: 10.5365/war.2024.15.3.1171.

Other Activities:

- 1) Advisor in a research project on Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in the Highlands of PNG.
- 2) He gave a presentation 20 – 21 September 2024 at an International Conference on Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV), “Witchcraft and Human Rights, past, present and future: Implementing UN Resolution 47/8.
- 3) He attended a conference on 20 – 21 September 2024, at the Lancaster University, United Kingdom.
- 4) Gave a presentation at the “Unitwin Workshop for Higher Education”, 26 to 30 May, 2024 at Handong Global University, South Korea.
- 5) He is the supervisor for two doctoral students. One recently successfully defended his dissertation.

Stanisław Grodz

Grodz is the director of the Anthros Institut, Sankt Augustin and a member of the Anthros Institute International Coordinating Council. Much

of his attention was focused on the administrative matters of the Institute at Sankt Augustin. He also serves as the coordinator of the Editorial Board of the *Anthropos* journal.

Publications:

1) 6 entries in D.R. Thomas and J. Chesworth with I. Aščerić-Todd, S. Grodž, D. Pratt, and C. Wenzel (eds), *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History, Volume 22*. Central Europe (1800-1914), Leiden: Brill, 2024. ISBN: 978-90-04-69890-1

1/ Introduction: Central Europe (in collaboration with Catherina Wenzel); 2/ Gottfried Simon (in collaboration with Maria Kissel and Catherina Wenzel), 3/ Carl Heinrich Becker (in collaboration with Melanie Mälzer and John Chesworth), and 4/ Moritz Wilhelm Lüttke, 5/ German Colonial Congresses 1902, 1905 and 1910, 6/ *Allgemeine Missions-Zeitschrift* (Nos 4-6 Grodž exclusive authorship)

2) "Vom Forscher zum Stammesmitglied? Martin Gusindes Feldforschung in Feuerland in interkultureller Perspektive", *Ordens Korrespondenz* No. 4 (2024) 176-82

Conferences:

1) "A Laboratory for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue? Missionary Collections at the Interface of Religion, Science and Global Society", an international conference co-organized by the University of Bonn and the Divine Word Missionaries, Bonn-St. Augustin, 10-12 September 2024 – opening address and an input during the final panel session; local co-organiser in Sankt Augustin

2) „Restitution Matters“. Museale Kulturgüter in dekolonialer Perspektive als Aufgabe für Missionswissenschaft und Kulturpolitik – an annual conference organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Missionswissenschaft (DGMW), Loccum, 10.-12. Oktober 2024. A short presentation during parallel panel sessions: Das Haus Völker und Kulturen – Ein Laboratorium für interkulturelle Begegnung?“

3) CIBEDO-Werkstatt: Theologie im Angesicht des Islam (Vom eins Werden und zwei bleiben. Religionsverbindende christlich-muslimische Ehen und Partnerschaften), 25.-26.10.2024, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Frankfurt am Main

Other Activities:

Closing the Haus Völker und Kulturen (HVK) in Sankt Augustin to the public in 2020, the leadership of the SVD community in St. Augustin took no decisions concerning the future of the HVK. For that reason, a search for a sustainable solution to the future of the HVK has been started in cooperation with the Global Heritage Lab, Universität Bonn (<https://globalheritagelab.org/>) last year. He got involved in that process because the collection had been originally connected with Anthropos Institute. No tangible results are in sight, yet.

Thomas Kavumkattayil (K.J.)

Thomas K.J. is the Director of Sanskruti – Institute of Dravidian Culture and Research, Hyderabad, India. [See institutional report](#).

Here is his own professional report.

1) Participated on line, in the 5th National MER

India Conference conducted on November 20th to 24, 2024 at Jharsaguda, Orissa.

2) Presented a paper on "Building Bridges of Compassion: The Role of Inclusive Education and Social Intervention in Advancing Justice and Peace in India", on 22nd November 2024, for the National MER Seminar at Orissa.

3) Presented a paper on "Higher Education in India: Practices and Challenges" during the two day National Seminar at Habsiguda, on 16th February, 2024.

4) A new volume on *Demystifying Higher Education in India: Paradigms, Policies and Practices*, edited by Dr Thomas K.J., is being published by Global Publishing House India, Hyderabad.

5) Participated in the Hyderabad- Janssen Forum Seminar on 10th November, 2024.

6) Conducted two-day conference for the Vincentian Novices, at Venkatapuram, Hyderabad from 12th November to 13th November.

7) Attended one day Conference for SVD Fathers at Changanachery on 30th December.

8) Attended two days seminar on, "Changing Dynamics of Migration: Leveraging India's Global image", at CSSEIP, University of Hyderabad on 10-11 of October, 2024.

9) Attended a Golden Jubilee Lecture by Dr. Madhusudan Mohanty on 30th October, 2024, at Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad.

Jon Kirby

Kirby is serving a second term as the Provincial of the SVD USW province. Due to these duties, he is not able to devote time to academic and professional activities at this time.

Robert Kisala

Kisala was reappointed president of Nanzan University in Japan for the 2023-2026 triennium.

Zdzisław Kupisiński

Kupisiński has been a member of the Department of Religiology and Missiology, Section of Fundamental Theology, Institute of Theological Sciences, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. He retired on 30.09.2023 from the Catholic University of Lublin.

Jose Kuzhikkattuthazhe

Kuzhikkattuthazhe is Director of Sanskriti—North Eastern Institute of Cultural Research (NEICR) in Guwahati, India (ING). [See that institutional report below for his individual activities as well.](#)

Michael, S. M.

Sebastian Maria Michael is a member of the Coordinating Council of Anthropos Institute International and the Arnoldus Family Resource Committee of Interculturality (RCI).

Publications:

1) "Foundations to Build Intercultural Religious Communities Beyond Ethnocentrism & Relativism", *Vidyajyoti Journal Theological Reflection* Vol 88 (2024) pp. 266-281.

2) "Ecology, Culture and Social Change: A

Comparative Study of Two Ecological Regions in India", Book – *CULTURE CHANGE IN INDIA: Intellectual Traditions, Institutions and Regions*, eds. B.K. Nagla and Kameshwar Choudhary, London/New York: Routledge, 2024, pp. 233-259.

3) "Contemporary Challenges To Missionary Formation In India", *Asian Journal of Vocation and Formation*, Volume XXXXVII No. 2 July - December * 2023, pp. 4-11.

Conferences and Seminars:

1) International Conference on "Childhood Politics in India" jointly organized by the Department of Political Science, SNDT University, Mumbai and with Department of Political Science, Lehigh University, USA, on February 13-14, 2024. His paper was on "Nature Vs. Nurture in Child Political Identity".

2) National Seminar on Research Methodology, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai, March 15 & 16, 2024.

3) National conference on "Migration of Christians and Urbanization, With Reference to Mumbai", by The Church History Association of India – Western Branch On 9th June 2024. Presented a paper on "Migration of Christians and Urbanization with Reference to Mumbai".

4) National conference on "Women Empowerment in India: Challenges and Problems in the 21st Century", organized by the Institute of Indian Culture, Mumbai. He presented a paper on "Culture, Gender and Women Empowerment" on 15th June 2024.

5) National Symposium on "Hope for a New India: Religions and Cultures Journeying Together", by St. Pius College, Mumbai, November 15-17, 2024. He presented a paper on "Challenges to Christian Mission in India: The Importance of Renewal of Christian Life Today".

6) National Seminar by FOIM on "Mission in India – Challenges and Prospects in the Context of Religious Nationalism", October 22-24, 2024, Caleb Institute, Gurugram, Haryana. He presented a paper on "Politics of Culture, Nation & Conversion: Challenges to Christian mission in India Today".

7) National Colloquium on "Arnoldus Spirituality and Mission Today: New Wine in Fresh Wineskins – Becoming Creative Disciples in Today's Wounded World", November 13-15, 2024, Atma Darshan, Mumbai. He presented a paper on "Culture Meets Spirituality: Building Intercultural/ Intergenerational Communities of Disciples".

Hendrikus Maku

Maku is a lecturer of Islamology and Interreligious Dialogue in Ledalero Institute of Philosophy and Creative Technology (IFTK), Maumere, Indonesia. From September 2021 until now, Hendrik has been doing his Ph.D. studies in Islamology at the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University in Jakarta, Indonesia.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

1) Pedagogi Kontemporer: Inovasi Pembelajaran dan Integrasi Kurikulum Digital (Purbalingga: Eureka Media Aksara, 2024)

2) Mengenal Maryam dalam Islam: Sebuah Pintu

Menuju Dialog (Jakarta: Perkumpulan Fata Institute-Fins, 2024)

Articles:

1) "Islamic Inclusivism: Insights From Abu Dhabi, Silaturahmi Tunnel, and Walisanga-Ende", *Changing Societies & Personalities*. Vol. 8. Iss. 3, 2024. <https://changing-sp.com/ojs/index.php/csp/article/view/516>

2) "Cak Nur Pluralism: Criticism Of The Phenomenon Religious Intolerance In Indonesia", *International Journal Of Humanities Education and Social Sciences*, Vol. 3 No. 4, 2024. <https://www.ijhess.com/index.php/ijhess/article/view/803>

3) "Urgensi "Rasionalitas Hati" Blaise Pascal di Tengah Maraknya Intoleransi Antar Umat Beragama di Indonesia", *Indonesian Character Journal*, Vol. 1 No. 2, 2024. <https://journal.binus.ac.id/index.php/icj/article/view/11572>

Editor (Reviewer) of some journals:

1) Jurnal Ledalero: <https://ejurnal.iftkledalero.ac.id/index.php/JLe>

2) Jurnal Mamangan: <https://ejournal.upgrisba.ac.id/index.php/jurnal-mamangan/index>

3) Jurnal Paradigma: <https://jurnal.unismabekasi.ac.id/index.php/paradigma>

4) Jurnal Perspektif: <https://adityawacana.id/ojs/index.php/jpf>

5) Jurnal DEVOSI: <https://jurnal.unismabekasi.ac.id/index.php/devosi>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

He has also participated in several meetings, organized by the Government of Indonesia, namely by the Ministry of Religion and the Ministry of Educations.

Joseph Mundananikkal (M.T.)

M.T. Joseph teaches in the Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai, India. He is an editorial consultant for the *Institute of Indian Culture: New and Views*.

Roger Vanzila Munsi

Munsi is a member of the Faculty of Global Liberal Studies at Nanzan University, Japan.

Teaching and Administration:

1) He taught two seminars and nine courses at Nanzan University, spanning four quarters (or two semesters). These included Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Religion, Multiculturalism, Topics in Global Liberal Studies, Studies in Religion, Human Dignity and Ethnic Issues, Sustainability, Ethnicity and Culture, Globalization, and Ethnicity and Religion, among others. While teaching these diverse subjects, he also engaged in various research activities organized by the Nanzan Anthropological Institute.

2) In his course on Anthropology and Global Liberal Studies, he focused on addressing critical issues such as interculturality, human-nature/ecosystem relations, and sustainability.

3) He continued to actively serve as a full member of the Assembly of Nanzan Corporation,

contributing to the institution's broader academic and administrative responsibilities.

Annual Conferences and Special Seminar

- 1) On February 23, 2024, he delivered a special presentation titled "Kirishitan Shrines in Japan: Insights into the Religiosity of Local Communities" during a workshop organized by the Chubu Anthropological Association at the Nanzan Anthropological Institute. The presentation delved into the cultural and spiritual significance of Kirishitan shrines, emphasizing their role as sacred spaces that embody the enduring religiosity and faith expressions of local communities. Drawing from ethnographic fieldwork and historical research, he highlighted how these shrines serve as focal points for collective memory, identity, and spiritual resilience, offering a nuanced perspective on their importance in both historical and contemporary contexts..
- 2) On November 12, 2024, he presented two distinct fieldwork-based papers during the Annual ISP Program organized by the Institute of Religious Studies in Kyoto, Japan. The first paper was titled "Kakure Kirishitan Practitioners in Nagasaki Settings." It explored the contemporary practices, beliefs, and challenges faced by Kakure Kirishitan communities within the unique cultural and historical contexts of Nagasaki. The second paper focused on "The Old-Age Ritual Practice of Ohatsuhoage among Kakure Kirishitan Survivors." This presentation examined the significance and transformative power of the Ohatsuhoage ritual, particularly among the elder members of the community, as a means of preserving faith, fostering spiritual resilience, and maintaining cultural continuity. Both papers highlighted the intricate interplay between historical legacy and present-day religious practices, offering fresh insights into the lived experiences of these communities.
- 3) On December 8, 2024, the members of the Christian Center at Nanzan University collaboratively organized a workshop titled "The Role of Antonin Raymond in the History of Church Architecture in Japan: His Legacy and Influence." This event provided a platform to delve into the significant contributions of Antonin Raymond, often regarded as a pioneer of modern architecture in Japan, with a particular emphasis on his innovative approaches to church design

Fieldwork

- 1) During the summer of 2024, he conducted fieldwork among the Sakata people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a specific focus on leadership succession issues. This research provided valuable ethnographic data that not only deepened my understanding of the complexities surrounding traditional leadership dynamics but also contributed significantly to the content of his forthcoming book on this topic.
- 2) Between October and December 2024, he undertook an in-depth study of Julia Otaa and the Otaine Shrine in Izo-Oshima, Japan. This phase of research offered rich cultural and historical insights, which have been integrated into my forthcoming article. These findings illuminate the nuanced interplay between local religious practices and

broader sociocultural contexts, further enriching the academic discourse on these subjects.

Publications

- 1) MUNSI, R.V. 2024. "Sacred Syncretism in Nagasaki: The Kuwahime Shrine." [Short Version without illustrations]. The Japan Mission Journal 78(1):40-48.
- 2) MUNSI, R.V. 2024. "Harmony Unveiled: Exploring the Dynamic Intersection of Anthropology and Sustainable Development" Academia, Humanities and natural Sciences 28: 74-108. Nanzan university.
- 3) MUNSI, R.V. 2024. "Sacred Syncretism in Nagasaki: Exploring the Distinctive Facets of Kuwahime Shrine within the Precincts of the Fuchi Shinto Shrine" [Large Version with illustrations] Academia, Social Sciences 28: 109-134. Nanzan University.

Book Projects

- 1) He completed two new books on the Sakata People of the Congo and the Ritual Practice of Ohatsuhoage among the Kakure Kirishitan Practitioners . They will be published in London (MediaComx publishing house) and Austria (Mengo-Bitha Publishing), respectively.
- 2) Mr. Shimazaki and Munsi embarked on a collaborative second book project titled "Cotton Cultivation and Water Resource Management." This forthcoming work will focus on the critical intersections of agriculture and sustainability, with particular attention to Western Africa and Australia.
- 3) Professor Janusz Kuciki SVD (Nanzan University) and Munsi are co-editing a volume entitled "The Edge of Knowledge: Exploring Interdisciplinary Landscapes" This title emphasizes the commitment to examining the dynamic intersections of various disciplines such as culture, religion, theology, mission, development, sustainability, communication, and field studies. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach, the volume aims to uncover new perspectives, foster innovative methodologies, and address the complexities of contemporary global challenges.

Piotr Nawrot

Books

- 1) Piotr Nawrot, ed. Francesco Feo. Misa a 5. Spain: Dairea Ediciones. ISBN:978-84-12345-6-7
- 2) Piotr Nawrot, ed. Laudate Dominum Omnes Gentes & Laetatus sum (Catedral de La Plata, s. XVIII). Fondo Editorial APAC. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. ISBN: 978-99974-263-3-8
- 3) Piotr Nawrot, ed. Vísperas a 7 (Dixit Dominus, Beatus vir, Laudate Dominum, Laetatus sum, Lauda Ierusalem, Magnificat). Fondo Editorial APAC. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. ISBN: 978-99974-263-4-5

Awards

May 11, 2024. **Doctor Honoris Causa of Fine Arts** granted by The Catholic University of America. For outstanding career in serving others in the spirit of the Gospel prompts us to raise you up in our community as a leader to our mission.

Research in 2024

- 1) Music manuscripts from the 17th and 18th centuries preserved by the Chiquito Indian

community and the Moxo Indians, in the eastern part of Bolivia (South America). Research.

- 2) Musical manuscripts from the cathedral in La Plata (today Sucre) gathered in the Archives and the National Library of Bolivia in Sucre. Research.
- 3) Research on music practices in the Spanish America during the colonization period. Research carried out in archives in Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Bolivia, Argentina, Peru, and the USA.

Artistic activities 2024

Artistic Director of the XIV Festival of Music, Misiones de Chiquitos. April 19th to 27th, 2024. All together 132 concerts, 22 sung baroque masses, 1040 musicians from 19 countries: Asia, Europe, and America.

Neonbasu, Gregorius

Neonbasu teaches at several campuses: Widya Mandira Catholic University, Kupang State Institute of Christian Religion, School Prof. Johanes Usfunan Kupang, and Higher Law Science. He teaches the following courses: Legal Anthropology, Introduction to Anthropology, Indonesian Cultural Systems, and Religious Education.

Research:

He conducts research on the borders of the RDTL and the Republic of Indonesia in several places such as Oekusi, Maliana and Motamasin. The research team that was formed not only came from Indonesia, but also several staff from Timor Leste.

Publications and Projects:

- 1) The origin of the activities in Timor Leste began with GAG's collaboration with CNC (Centra National Chega, foreign thinking) from Timor Leste, namely to edit all the texts of the 2023 International Seminar in Maliana where Neonbasu was the key speaker. The editing results of the Seminar manuscript have been published at Kanisius Publishers in Yogyakarta (Indonesia) with ISBN. Fritz Meko SVD from SVD Java Province is one of the co-editors of this publication.
- 2) A book has been published entitled "Political Conspiracy, a Critical Review of the Life History and Faith Pilgrimage of the Nai Meko Tribe" (Konspirasi Politik, Tinjauan Kritis atas Sejarah Kehidupan dan Ziarah Iman Suku Nai Meko) which is an expansion of P. Fritz Meko SVD's doctoral dissertation text (ISBN: 978-979-21-8116-6). Neonbasu did the editing and provided a prologue with the title "A Living Song About Timor, Anthropological Speculation in the Conscience of Society" (Tembang Hidup Tentang Timor, Spekulasi Antropologis Dalam Nurani Masyarakat, pp. 1-14).
- 3) Publication of a jointly-edited book by Neonbasu with two of his doctoral students who have backgrounds in the Indonesian army. The title of the book is "Anthology of the National Diversity Paradigm""Antologi Paradigma Negara Bhineka" ISBN: 978-979-21-7989-7). Neonbasu contributed several articles to it, including the Prologue with the title "Multiculturalism and Pluralism, Reflections on the Anthropology of Diversity" "Multikulturalisme dan Pluralisme, Refleksi Antropologi Keberagaman" (pp. 1-44); "Diversity Management in an Indonesian Perspective, Contemplation of the

Anthropology of Government" "Manajemen Keberagaman Dalam Perspektif Indonesia, Kontemplasi Antropologi Pemerintahan"; "Ahmad Syafii Maarif: The Father of Harmonization is Gone" "Ahmad Syafii Maarif: Bapak Harmonisasi Telah Pergi" (pp. 435-440); a joint article with Pieter Zwitser wrote "The Mysterious Side of a Multiculturalist Perspective" "Sisi Misteri dari Perspektif Multikulturalisme" (pp. 535-547).

Jacek Jan Pawlik

Pawlik is professor and Chair of Family Sciences in the Faculty of Theology in Olsztyn since 2008. Since Oct. 2020, Pawlik is a Director of the Chair of Sciences of Family in University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

Lectures:

Missiology, 30 h. University of Warmia and Mazury, Faculty of Theology, Summer Semester Silhouette of a missionary, 31.01., 13.11. Centre of Mission Formation, Warsaw.

Publications 2024:

- 1) Victorem W. Turnerem do źródeł communitas, [With Victor W. Turner to the sources of communitas], in: Marcin Bogucki et al. (eds.) „Coś, co jest bardziej mna niż ja“. Prace ofiarowane prof. Leszkowi Kolankiewiczowi, Instytut im. Jerzego Grotowskiego, Wrocław – Warszawa 2024, pp. 155-166.
- 2) Znaczenie Polskiego Gimnazjum w Bytomiu dla społeczności polskiej w Niemczech [The impact oft he Polish Gymnasium in Bytom on the Polish community in Germany], in: Henryk Kałuża (ed.), Szkoła na Śląsku, Verbinum, Góra Grupa (IX śląskie forum historyczne), pp. 107-135.
- 3) Rodzina afrykańska a rodzina chrześcijańska – odmienne koncepcje przy zbieżności celów [African and Christian Family – difference of conceptions but convergence of goals], in: Józef Stala, Elżbieta Osewska (eds.), Życie rodzinne w dyskursie nauk o rodzinie, Biblos, Tarnów, pp. 383-400.
- 4) Społeczna funkcja rytuału na przykładzie Afryki [Social Function of Ritual in Africa], in: Paulina Jabłońska, Paweł Szuppe (eds.), Wokół koncepcji wolności religijnej. Vol. 4. Księga jubileuszowa dla Profesora Eugeniusza Sakowicza, Wyd. Naukowe UKSW, Warszawa, pp. 347-349.

Participation at conference:

- 1) 6-8 V 2024 Roma, Italy, Pontificia Università Gregoriana, International Conference: Cardinal Stanislaus Hosius - theologian, humanist, diplomat and candidate for the altars. Paper: Silhouette of Cardinal Stanislaus Hosius in dictionaries and encyclopedias in various languages.
- 2) 13-15 V 2024 Chłudowo, Dom Misyjny św. Stanisława Kostki. Conference: IV Wiosenne Seminarium Muzeologiczne: Muzeum etnograficzne na rozdrożu. Paper: Martwe fetysze [Dead fetishes]
- 3) 17-18 X 2024 Lomé, Togo, Mini-Colloque: Tradition – Mission – Avenir. Presentation oft he book: „Vous les reconnaîtrez à leurs fruits“ (Mt 7,20). La Société du Verbe Divin au Togo, S-Can, Tarnow 2023.
- 4) 14-15 XI 2024, Warsaw, Poland, UKSW, Internation Missiological Conference: Norma podmiotowości w refleksji misjologicznej. Paper:

Norma podmiotowości inspirowana przez antropologów [The norm of subjectivity inspired by anthropologists].

Francis Pereira

Teaching:

- 1) Thirty lectures on Theological Anthropology for the first year theology students of Regional Theologate Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo (KJM) at Sambalpur, Odisha, India in July 2024.
- 2) Five-day seminar on Tribal theology for the fourth year theology students at Regional Theologate Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo (KJM) at Sambalpur, Odisha, India in August 2024.
- 3) Five-day seminar on Tribal theology for the third year theology students of St. Charles Seminary at Nagpur in Maharashtra, India in August 2024.
- 4) Moderated a session and delivered the Valedictory Note at the National Seminar on Tribal Worldview and Philosophy: Past, Present and Future organized by Sanskruti Kendra, Tribal Cultural and Research Centre, Sundargarh, Odisha, India on November 15, 2024

Joachim Piepke

Piepke died on February 24, 2024. He had worked in Brazil and was a AII member since 1982. He was director of Anthropos Institute over 1986-1998, and then Director of Anthropos Institute-St. Augustine's over 2001-2017. [Cf. "In Memory of Joachim Piepke SVD (1943-2024)" *VERBUM SVD* 65:1-2 (2024), 175-176.

Darius Piwowarczyk

Piwowarczyk is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Anthropos* journal.

Book Reviews

- 1) Debus, Ursula: "Genozid als Heldenepos. Spanien und der 500. Jahrestag der Entdeckung Amerikas" (2022). *Anthropos* 119/2: 637-639.
- 2) Sobel, Grzegorz: Kielbaska jaworska. Rzecz o specjalne znad Nysy Szalonej (2023). *Anthropos* 119/2: 707-708.

Editorial Work

Volume 119: 2024 of *Anthropos* (32 Articles, 4 Reports and Commentaries, 127 Book Reviews, and two other sections, on 754 pages).

Teaching

Jagiellonian University (UJ), Cracow, Poland - Lecture: "Modern Museums and World Exhibitions as Platforms for Forming the Modern Person. Missionary Ethnography and Ethnographic Collections" (5 hours).

Alexander Rödlach

Rödlach is Professor of Medical Anthropology at Creighton University in Omaha, teaching courses in Global Health, Needs Assessment, and Program Evaluation, and also the anthropology capstone course.

- 1) Together with LaShaune Johnson and Renzo Rosales SJ, he edited *Research as Accompaniment: Solidarity and Community Partnerships for Transformative Action* that brings together anthropologists, sociologists, nurses, law experts, and others to reflect on their experience with

adopting liberation theology's accompaniment as they created relationships with communities that included a research component. Together with Ruth Stark and Eric Meyer, he is currently working on a book project that interprets Stark's reflections on decades of working in global health, with the World Health Organization, the United Nations, Catholic Relief Services, and others with a focus on how to do international work the right way.

- 2) He co-authored "The Role of Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs' Mission, Vision, and Value Statements in the Development of Students' Professional Identity", published in *Nurse Education Today*, and "Professional Development of Advanced Practice Nurses: Evaluating Its Integration in Curricula and Relevance for Professional Practice", published in *Nurse Education in Practice*. Together with Kathleen Clark, he contributed a chapter to *Compassion als Schlüssel fuer eine zukunftsfaehige Bildung nachhaltiger Entwicklung*. The chapter is titled "Compassion in Pre-Health and Health Professional Education: Inspiration and Sustenance in Action." He published a book review in *Anthropos* on Don Grant's "Nursing the Spirit: Care, Public Life, and the Dignity of Vulnerable Strangers."
- 3) Together with Deborah Borneman, he published in *Horizon*, a magazine for vocation directors of religious communities in the United States, a summary of a workshop he gave in 2023 for vocation directors, titled "Culture and Calling."
- 4) He was a panelist on the "Church and Culture" speaker series of Vinzenz Pallotti University in Germany, speaking with Norbert Koessmeier on "Salvation and Healing as an Intercultural Challenge."
- 5) He led a workshop for young SVDs in the three United States provinces, the "First Fives", on intercultural competence and moderated part of the jubilee retreat of the United States Western Province on the topic of "culture and community."
- 6) He is currently working with the SSpS Generalate and a research team of SSpS sisters on a research project involving all SSpS internationally who are younger than 80 years. The research project aims at understanding the sisters' perceptions and thoughts of their mission mandate. This research is ongoing.
- 7) In May 2025, he will "retire" from Creighton University and move to Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa, to support the work of students and faculty in the area of sustainable ecology, create connections with other colleges that are committed to taking care of our Common Home, explore collaborations with other organizations concerned with sustainability, and create programs for students and others during the summer.

Roger Schroeder

Schroeder holds the Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD Chair of Mission and Culture and is Professor of Intercultural Studies and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union at Chicago (CTU). He is the AII coordinator and co-chair (with Adriana Milmanda, SSpS) of the SVD-SSpS Resource Committee on Interculturality (RCI). Schroeder was on sabbatical

from CTU for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Publications

A. Chapters in book:

- 1) "SVD Founding Generation, Anthropos Tradition, and Interculturality," *VERBUM SVD* 64, 3-4 (2023), 298-317;
- 2) "Intercultural Ministry in Mutuality with the Disabled," in: *SVD Health Professionals: Participating in God's Mission to Heal*, edited by Alexander Roedlach, SVD, 120-129 (Generalate, Rome: SVD e-Publications, 2023);

B. Book Review:

Review of *The Missionary Endeavor of the Society of the Divine Word in Latin America and China: The Founding and Biographical Approach*, Analecta 101, by Andrzej Miotk, SVD (Rome: Apud Collegium Verbi Divine, 2023). *VERBUM SVD*, no. 1-2, 65 (2024): 179-181; 7;

C. Editorial work:

- 1) One of three Associate Editors. *International Bulletin of Mission Research* (IBMR)
- 2) Member of ASM (American Society of Missiology) Scholarly Monograph Series Editorial Committee.

Research and Writing

The primary research and writing project during sabbatical in 2024 was for a future co-authored book with Stephen Bevans, SVD, with the working title, *Mission as Attraction*. Schroeder completed the second drafts of the following chapters: "A Church of Hospitality: A Community that is Guest and Host," a Church that Attracts: A Community of Radical Welcome," and "A Church of Interculturality: The Power of Radical Kinship."

Conferences:

- 1) Co-organized the annual World Mission Institute. Speaker was Dr. Barbara Rossing on "Care of Creation: Reconciliation and Mission." on February 29, 2024, at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.
- 2) Schroeder attended the annual conferences and board meeting of the Association of Professors of Mission (APM) and the American Society of Missiology (ASM) at St. Mary's College, South Bend, IN, over June 13-17, 2024.

Academic programs, presentations, workshops,

- 1) Conducted a five-day course (English and Chinese) on "Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today," for members of ChinaReach (non-denominational Chinese evangelists), in Chiangmai, Thailand, over March 17-23, 2024.
- 2) Serves on the Organizing Team for the three-year CSCL program, "Moving Along the Arc: Women and Men Religious as Agents of Reconciliation and Transformative Action Towards of More Racially Just Church and World," which sponsored a symposium over April 18-19, 2024, at CTU.
- 3) Led a two-day workshop on "Passion for Mission: Crossing borders as we reach out in ministry" for SSpS Sisters, over July 19-20, 2024, in Northfield, IL.
- 4) Led a 2-day workshop (six sessions) on "Interculturality and Religious Life" for the Intercommunity Novitiate (ICN) program in St. Louis, September 5-6, 2024, St. Louis, MO.
- 5) Conducted 4-day Convocation for 175 active priests of the San Diego Diocese on the theme of

"Engaging Diversity: Intercultural Life and Ministry" over September 23-26. He gave the following talks: "Interculturality: Entering someone else's 'Garden"'; "Intercultural Journeys of Jesus and the Local Church"; "Socio and Individual Centric Societies"; "Interculturality and Prophetic Dialogue"; "Mapping, Bridging, and Integrating."

6) Schroeder organized the annual Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, lecture on October 8, with Prof. Antonio Sison giving the lecture on "The Pyramid Beneath a Church: Causing Muted Signs to Speak to Inculturation."

7) Facilitated the annual 6-day immersion experience to the Rose Bud and Pine Ridge Lakota reservations in South Dakota.

8) Conducted an acculturation program for a Precious Blood priest coming from India to do pastoral ministry in the States on November 15, 2024, at CTU.

9) Co-facilitated (with Adriana Milmenda, SSpS, of Argentina) an in-person five-day meeting of the twelve members of the international SVD-SSPs Resource Committee of Interculturality (RCI) over November 22-26, 2024, in Steyl, the Netherlands. Schroeder and Milmenda continued to co-facilitate four days of work session of RCI with the international core team of the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Network (ALSN) over November 27-30, also in Steyl.

Djalma Antônio da Silva

Da Silva works in the management of the Missionary Cultural Center. He taught pastoral theology (Missiology) at the Institute of Philosophy and Theology of the Archdiocese of Vitória (IFTA) and he also supervised a seminarist's final thesis at the same institute. He gave a talk at the Regional Congress of Seminarists of the State of Espírito Santo (COMISE) on the theme: "Missionary Mysticism."

Ignatius Soreng

Soreng is the Director of Sanskruti Kendra, Sundargarh, India. Please see the institutional report below for the extensive programming.

Antony Susairaj

Susairaj is teaching at Nanzan University in Japan.

Publications:

- 1) Antony Susairaj, "Harmony in Pluralistic Religious Indian Society: Lessons from Vivekananda's Principles of Inter-religious Dialogue," *Academia*, Vol. 27 (January 2024), pp. 173 – 184.
- 2) Antony Susairaj, "'ME' AND 'MY BODY': EMERGENCE OF 'SELF' AND PERSONHOOD IN AN AGENT," *Academia*, Vol. 28, (June 2024), pp. 135~146.
- 3) Antony Susairaj, "A Survey on the Udaiyamuthur Samathuvapuram (Model Village of Equality): A Model for Respectful Inter-caste Community and Collaboration in India," *Journal of the Nanzan Academic Society Humanities and Natural Sciences* Vol.29) (January 2025), pp. 27–52.

English Translation:

- 1) Antony Susairaj, "Migrating to Japan — Changes

in the Life of Indian Migrants: From the perspective of their religious activities" Academia, Vol. 29, (January 2025), pp. 1-26.

(日インド人の生活の変化

～宗教に関する事例から～アントニー・スサイラジ南山大学紀要 アカデミア

人文・自然科学編 (29) 1 - 26 2025年1月).

2) Antony Susairaj, "Education Ministry of SVD Missionaries among the Tribals in India: An Evaluation of SVD Schools in the State of Orissa, India," Academia, Vol. 30, (June 2025). (Paper submitted and to be published in June 2025).

Academic Presentation

1) Antony Susairaj, "A Survey on the Udaiyamuthur Samathuvapuram (Model Village of Equality): A Model for Respectful Inter-caste Community and Collaboration in India," 54th South Asian Research Conference, Mie Spo Inn, Mie Prefecture, Japan (July 2024). (Presentation was in Japanese)

ウダイヤムトゥール・サマトゥアプラム (平等村) :

インドのマルチ・カースト社会における異カースト間の尊重と社会的調和のモデル, 第54回南アジア研究集会, Mie Spo Inn, 三重県鈴鹿市 2024年7月。

2) Antony Susairaj, "Learning from India's diversity: multicultural coexistence in the future," 77th Inter-cultural Understanding Lecture, Komaki City International Association (KIA), Nagoya, Japan, 21 September 2024.

3) Antony Susairaj, "Diversity of India – Prospects and Challenges," NHK Cultural Center, Nagoya, Japan, 11 December 2024.

4) Antony Susairaj, "Sanathuvapuram (model village of equality): A Model Village for Harmony and Collaboration among inter-caste Communities in Tamilnadu, India," International Conference on Social Development and SDGs, Social Work Department, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, Tamilnadu, India (27~28 February 2025).

Philip Tule

Tule is serving his second term as the President of Widya Mandira Catholic University in Kupang, Timor, Indonesia (2017 – 2025).

Reports of Corporate Members

Anthropos Institute Sankt Augustin

Stanislaw Grodz, member of the AII Council, is the Director of Anthropos Institut, Sankt Augustin, and the following AII members also work there: Alexius Dung Dung, Vincensius Adi Gunawan, Othmar Gächter, Günther Gessinger, and Darius Piwowarczyk. Joachim Piepke died in February 2024.

1) The extensive list of their institutional publications is described above (p. 3) under "Publications of the Institute."

2) Activities of individual members of Anthropos Institut Sankt Augustin are listed in their personal reports above.

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NOTE OF CLARIFICATION:

At the moment the official Statutes of Anthropos Institute recognize only full corporate association. However, we also acknowledge and include here the important efforts in 2023 of the following institutions dedicated to the study of culture and religion which carry out the Anthropos tradition of our Society, even though they are not full corporate members as of yet. Each of these institutes have some SVD affiliation, though several are presently not officially recognized by the SVD Generalate. One or more SVD are working in each of these centers, of whom many are currently members of Anthropos Institute.

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Aditya Wacana Centre

Missiologist Raymundus Sudhiarsa, SVD, is the Director of Aditya Wacana Centre for Studies of Religion and Culture in Malang, Indonesia. Tkeh following SVD are also members of the Centre: Kristoforus Bala, (also RCI member), Peter Bruno Sarbini, Yohanes Wayan Marianta, Donatus Sermada Kelen, Venantius Supriyono, Markus Situmorang.

The Centre publishes the biennial journal of *Perspektif, Jurnal Agama dan Kebudayaan* (June and December), which can be found at:

<https://adityawacana.id/ojs/index.php/jpf>.

Anthropological Institute, Nanzan University

Prof. Shinya WATANABE of the Faculty of Humanities, Department of Anthropology of Nanzan University is the Director of the Institute. Nanzan University is a private, Catholic and coeducational higher education institution run by the Society of the Divine Word. AII member Roger Vanzila Munsi is a member of the institute ([see his individual report above](#)).

The institute aims to promote mutual understanding among the peoples of the world through a two-fold research emphasis. It actively creates opportunities for cross-disciplinary research exchanges with faculty and students, with the aim of fostering students and building academic platforms. For more information, see <https://rci.nanzan-u.ac.jp/jinruiken/activities/report.html>

Publications

In addition to producing a number of publications in Japanese, the institute publishes, in cooperation with Boston University, the journal *Asian Ethnology*, which was published for many years as Asian Folklore Studies by AII member Peter Knecht. The current issue and back numbers dating back to 1942 can be accessed through the journal website <https://asianethnology.org/>

Anthropos do Brasil

The Director of Anthropos Institute of Brazil is AII member Joachim Andrade. [See his individual report above](#). The new board of directors of the Anthropos Institute for the next three years (2024-2026) are:

Director: Fr. Joachim Andrade

Vice-director: Fr. Djalma Antonio da Silva

Secretary: Fr. Omir Cícero Antônio de Oliveira

Treasurer: Fr. Ferdinandus Beki Doren

They are planning to have a Anthropos meeting in Brazil between 22-25 september 2025 in Juiz de Fora and Belo Horizonte. They are also inviting the directors of affiliated Anthropos Institutes of the SVDS.

Centre d'Etudes Ethnologiques Bandundu (CEEBA)

Georges Bosakaibo Bomino, SVD, is the new director of CEEBA in Bandundu city,

Congo. He was transferred in 2024 from Japan to the Congo Province by the SVD Generalate. He has a Ph.D. in International Development from Nagoya University (2018), and has taught at Nanzan University between September 2018 and March 2024. He has published his doctorate dissertation in a book format in 2022 and has so far published almost 9 academic articles (7 in English and two in French).

Institute of Indian Culture (IIC)

AII member S.M. Michael is the Director of the Institute of India Culture (AIC) in Mumbai, India. See his individual report above.

IIC organized a National Seminar on "Gender and Women Empowerment" on 15th June 2024. Professors from Universities and colleges participated in the Seminar. Thought provoking papers were presented which are being edited for the publication.

IIC has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a few Degree Colleges in Mumbai for mutual collaboration between these academic institutions for research, seminars, conferences and other academic pursuits.

The Academic Faculty of IIC has been engaged in research, animation and lectures both in the ecclesiastical and secular academic institutions.

The Academic Advisory Council of IIC has decided to organize Diploma Courses in Anthropology and Sociology for the public, which will be implemented from the Academic Year 2025.

Melanesian Institute

Br. Martin Tnines, SVD, is the Director. The Melanesian Institute (MI) is an Ecumenical social and Educational Institute administered by PNG and Solomon Islands mainline churches (Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, United and Anglican), that serves the people of Melanesia through Research, Publication and Education. Their publications include *Catalyst* and the *Point Series*.

Sanskriti -- North Eastern Institute of Cultural Research

AII member Jose Kuzhikkattuthazhe is the Director of Sanskriti—North Eastern Institute of Cultural Research (NEICR) in Guwahati, India (ING).

Programs:

1) Two-day national seminar on cultural heritage and empowerment in India and contemporary world from Dec 7 to 8, 2024 was organised by Sanskriti-NEICR, Guwahati. About 60 professors and scholars from various universities have participated and present research papers.

2) 1st two-day Assam Adivasi National seminar from 14th to 15th November 2024 was organised in collaboration with Assam Adivasi Writers. About 125 scholars participated among them about 25 scholars papers were presented

3) Organized another two-day national seminar for the Diocese of Bongaigaon as they are celebrating the silver jubilee of the diocese.

4) 5th National MER-Conference, Indo-Bangla sub zone was organised from Nov. 20 to 24, 2024. The focal them was SCRIPTING SVD STORY @ 150: Faithful and Creative Disciples in a Wounded World.

Publications:

A series of books on India and North East India are in the making in collaboration with some of the professors and various universities in North East India.

Sanskriti – Institute of Dravidian Culture and Research

Thomas Kavumkattayil (K.J.) is the Director of Sanskriti – Institute of Dravidian Culture and Research, Hyderabad, India. See his individual report above.

The vision of Sanskriti (Institute of Dravidian Culture and Research) is to promote intercultural understanding and empowering the marginalized and the downtrodden by way of research, workshops and publications. The Institute has been fully engaged mainly on webinar, seminar and workshops in various educational institutions during the last one year. A two day National Conference on "Demystifying Higher Education in India: Paradigms, Policies and Practices" was conducted on 16 and 17, February, 2024. More than 25 participants presented papers on the subject and an edited volume is being published based on the seminar papers that were presented. The director of Sanskriti attended or presented papers in the following seminars and workshops:

Sanskriti Kendra – Tribal Cultural and Research Centre

AII member Ignatius Soreng is Director of Sanskriti Kendra, Sundargarh, India. The center has two specialized activities – a. Fr. Ignatius Soreng, Director, takes care of the cultural department, while b. Fr. Ashok Minj, heads Assistant the activity of legal aid and consultancy.

Activities and Progams:

1) Tribal culture-based activity: Four main activities were conducted in this regard in and through the Center in the year 2024,

a) Tribal Youth Cultural Festival: A one-day tribal youth cultural festival was conducted in the premises of 'Sanskriti Kendra' for cultural training on 1.6.2024. Apart from training and motivation talks and tribal dance competition, presentation of the Creation Myths of Oraon, Munda and Kharia tribes was the highlight of the day. Subsequent discussion and analysis of the myths bore a great impact on the minds of the tribal youth as they learned deeper realities of their own tribes. It was a successful program as not less than 250 participated in the festival.

b) The Lighthouse National Conference 2024: The Conference of the tribal elite and intellectuals is named as the ‘Lighthouse Conference’ as this group is a source of guiding-light for the tribal communities in the area. Nov.15 2024 twenty-six intellectual including University Professors, College Lecturers, tribal writers and poets and Research scholars of Odisha and Jharkhand State came together for a day’s deliberations that included presentation of Research Papers with interaction, recitation of tribal poems, release of books, and release of the tribal e-journal The Whispers. The tribal elite and the intellectuals coming together to deliberate on important tribal issues is a great solace for the tribal communities who are battling with a number of vital issues in their home, social and cultural fronts.

c) A drive to develop tribal creative literature: It is said that a language that does not have a written literature dies out. A conscious effort is initiated by ‘Sanskriti Kendra’ to develop tribal creative literature by hosting a forum and boosting the tribal elite, educated and the intellectuals to come up with their creative writings and publications. ‘Sanskriti Kendra’ also pushes and promotes their publication with proper identity as ISBN so that they are not ignored in the official and intellectual circle. This year, there was the release of two books published by tribal writers – one, Funda (a novel in Kharia language) written by Ignatius Soreng, and two, Kahani a collection of poems in Sadri language written by Dr. Ajit Kumar Kullu, Asst. Professor, Sambalpur University. This has created a positive impact on many as an interest is created among the tribal intellectuals to come up with their own writings and publications in course of time.

d) Bringing out a tribal e-magazine: The tribal e-magazine brought out by Sanskriti Kendra is ‘The Whispers: a journal of tribal life, literatures and cultures’ named thewispersjournal.com. This is a multi-lingual journal that includes nine languages (four tribal languages – Oraon, Munda, Kisan and Kharia, two local languages – Sadri and Kenta, and three national-International languages – Hindi, Odia and English). It also is a and multi-dimensional journal as it includes four sections – Research articles, Poems, Short Stories and Folk tales. It is to be a biennial journal providing a recognized forum to the educated and intellectual scholars, writers and poets to come up with their literary outputs in order to serve their own communities.

2) Legal aid and consultancy: Fr. Ashok Minj SVD, the Assistant Director cum treasurer of the Center, is an active Advocate, and he shuffles between various courts in the district daily. He also attends the High court of the State as per need fighting cases of the poor and giving them legal advice. Loaded with his legal activities he also finds time to participate in the other activities of the center and thus advancing the aim and objectives of the center in the right direction.

Tamale Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies (TICCS)

(TICCS was founded by AII member Jon Kirby, SVD in 1983, as an anthropological research and

teaching institute for the SVD of the Ghana Province and the Catholic Archdiocese of Tamale. The current director of TICCS is Samuel Adu, SVD since September, 2023. He holds a Licenciate in Missiology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome and has been serving as a resource person for TICCS. TICCS has seventeen (17) staff in total: three senior staff, eleven regular staff and three part-time workers.

Programs:

- 1) A month-long Cross Cultural Orientation Workshop for New Missionaries was conducted in May 2024 for three religious belonging to the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation participated in the one-month residential course.
- 2) Pastoral Year Preparatory Course for Seminarians of St. Victor Major Seminary, was conducted in June 2024 for seventeen seminarians from six different dioceses and a religious congregation. This was a two-week non-residential workshop.
- 3) A second Cross Cultural Orientation Workshop for New Missionaries was conducted in September 2024. The total of sixteen participants was the largest number in recent years. Participants were from the following orders: SVD, Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, Missionaries of Africa, Sisters of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sisters of Jesus Mary and Joseph, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and OFM Franciscan Capuchin. The high number of participants can be attributable to the intensified advertisement for the programme and the subsidized participation fee. TICCS from the Koch Foundation.

Other Organizations:

- 1) ADRO, an NGO working in the north, held their programmes in TICCS in August 2024.
- 2) Trent-in-Ghana (a programme organised and run by Trent University) used TICCS for their one-month programme with the University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale. The students stayed in TICCS in November 2024.
- 3) The year 2024 recorded a little above 2000 people using the facilities.

For more information: <http://www.ticcsgh.com/>

Events

Birthdays

In 2025, eight AII members celebrate birthdays of particular significance: Weiland (90), Kirby (80), S.M. Michael (75), Lazar G., Kupisinski, and Nawrot (70), Foerster and Neonbasu (65). *Ad multos annos* to all.

Jubilees

Congratulations to the following celebrating SVD vow anniversaries of particular significance in 2025: Mantovani (75), Bronk and Gessinger (70), Gachter and Heisig (60), and Cazarotto (50).

And to those celebrating significant ordination anniversaries in 2025: Gschter and Gesch (55), Kisala, Jose K., and Pereira (40).

Roger Schroeder, S.V.D.

International Coordinator of Anthropos Institute

