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# Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

## June 2023

### Volume 15, Number 6

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM.



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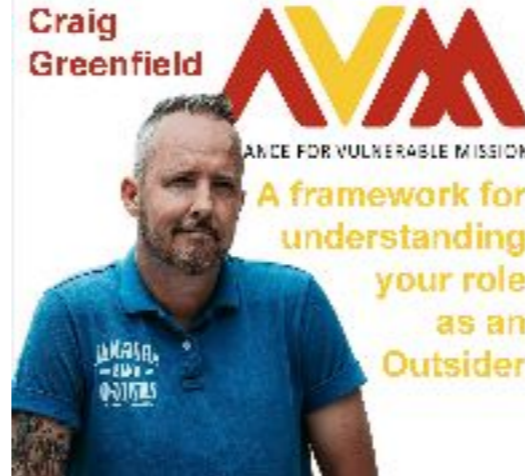
The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.



Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to [im@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:im@vulnerablemission.org)

This month's contents:

- Upcoming Webinar: A framework for understanding your role as an Outsider: Discover your Missional Type.
- Seeking Reconciliation in a Context of Coloniality.
- How 'being true to Scripture' can lead to cultural dominance in inclusion-based multiethnic churches.
- The Institute for Cross-Cultural Training (ICCT).
- The Nature of the 'Other': how the West should learn from foreigners.
- Can saving languages save nature?
- Students opt for unsafe abortions despite legal services.
- Would you like to volunteer as AVM's Communications' lead?



Come to our next webinar:

#### A framework for understanding your role as an Outsider: Discover your Missional Type.

What does it look like to serve as "outsiders" in a world of need? Our posture and role must be different from that of "insiders". In this webinar Craig Greenfield will outline the fivefold framework he has developed in his latest book, Subversive Mission.

Speaker: Craig Greenfield.

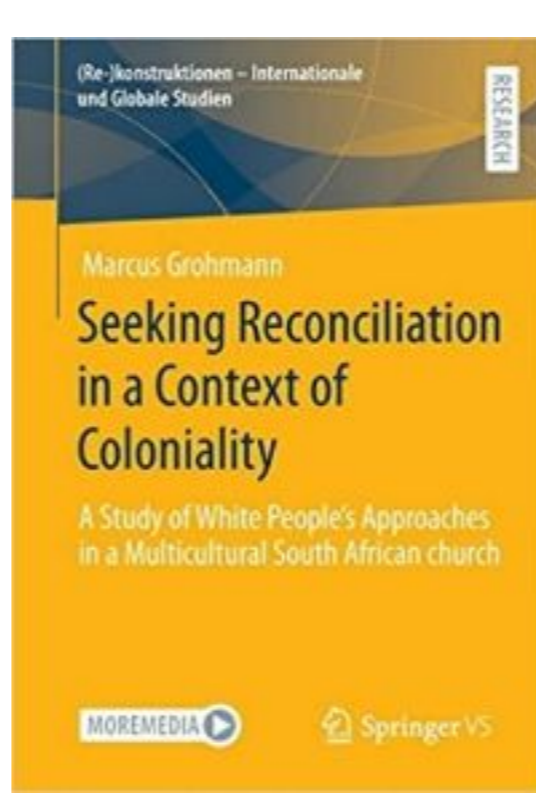
When: Thursday, 20th July 2023.

Time: 14:00 London Time (BST).

Sign up using this form for free and we will send you a Zoom link.

<https://forms.gle/1E58JE9AsYUnLzjB6>

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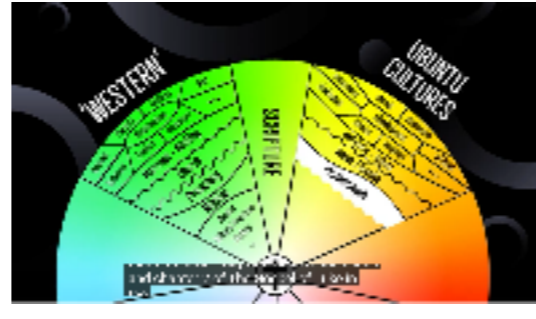


#### Seeking Reconciliation in a Context of Coloniality

[https://www.amazon.de/Seeking-Reconciliation-Context-Coloniality-konstruktionen/dp/3658414618/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1683125977&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.de/Seeking-Reconciliation-Context-Coloniality-konstruktionen/dp/3658414618/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1683125977&sr=8-1)

Author Marcus Grohmann, a board member of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) in this published PhD thesis, addresses a great irony running like a scarlet thread through anti-colonial studies. That is, often, the medicine sought for colonialism resembles the disease: The methods used to counter inherited inequalities can inadvertently perpetuate dominance if 'equality' that is now sought after is to be realised on the terms of those of influence. Marcus addresses this paradox head on. Unlike many anthropologists, his primary study was not of the oppressed poor, but members of a predominantly and historically white church in South Africa. We should "embrace linguistic diversity" suggests Marcus, and "ensure that the limiting factors [of language and theology] do not run counter to the objectives one set out to achieve." He points to a need for theology that is true to African contexts. (Feel free to contact the author: [marcus.grohmann@gmx.de](mailto:marcus.grohmann@gmx.de) ) To get the book from the publisher: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-658-41462-7> . (Includes free chapter summaries and offers significant discounts for the eBook if purchased from the Global South.)

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#### How 'being true to Scripture' can lead to cultural dominance in inclusion-based multiethnic churches.

<https://youtu.be/zlBEKlhAFYw>

This professional-standard video has recently been used by Marcus Grohmann in South Africa, to provide a 12-minute graphic illustrated conceptualisation of the need for the use of indigenous languages as a part of enabling African people to make sense of their own lives with respect to the Gospel of Jesus. Marcus narrates how cultural differences will of necessity be reflected in variations between alternative, all theologically-orthodox, ways of expressing Christianity and living out one's Christian faith as genuine believers.

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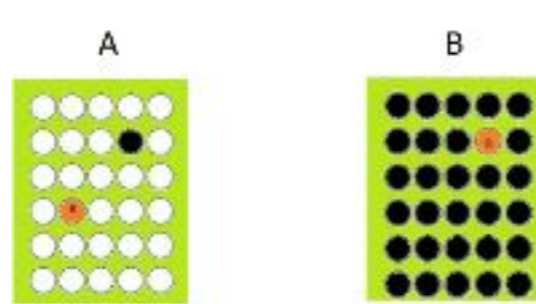


#### The Institute for Cross-Cultural Training (ICCT).

<https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/academic-centers/institute-for-cross-cultural-training/who-is-icct/icct-faculty-and-staff/>

The Institute for Cross-Cultural Training (ICCT), directed by Natalie Mullen Leisher, Ph.D. (pictured above) is made up of a team of committed professionals who want to empower language and culture learners. Their staff members teach courses, create resources for cross-cultural workers, and coach learners individually in phonetics, language learning techniques, and cross-cultural communication. All instructors have a master's degree or higher in Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, or a related field. (The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission is developing a relationship with this institute, that is based at Wheaton College near Chicago.)

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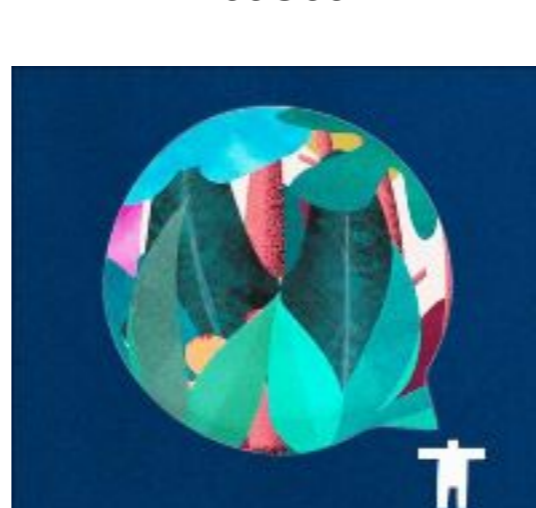


#### The Nature of the 'Other': how the West should learn from foreigners.

<https://www.academia.edu/s/2e25cb938b?source=link>

"There seems to be a profound irony going on ... People in the West understand themselves as being ready to LISTEN to others from around the world. They make major efforts at listening to them, through the media, through academia, by making friends with neighbours who come from foreign countries, and so on. Then, in order to show compassion and love to those concerned, they act on what they learn as a result of their listening. How foreigners are subsequently treated is justified according to the outcomes of the above-described 'listening' processes. This all sounds marvellous" Jim relates, then he problematises this approach in this live academia.edu discussion...

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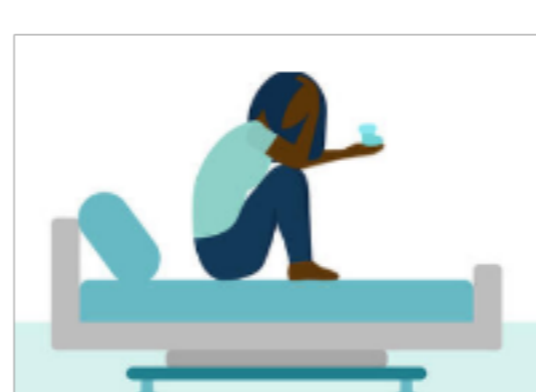


#### Can saving languages save nature?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/can-saving-languages-save-nature/p0fh50s5>

Saving languages, the BBC tells us, is a way of saving nature. Watch the video to find out more.

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#### Students opt for unsafe abortions despite legal services.

[https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230514174120500&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=AFNL0406](https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230514174120500&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AFNL0406)

This report on practice of abortion in Ghana, considers 'traditional' means to abortion to be 'unsafe'. Yet, that the same 'unsafe' abortions, are the options of choice for many Ghanaian girls with an unwanted pregnancy to get rid of, appears to perplex Francis Kokutse, the author of this article. The outcome – great expenses incurred to get Ghanaian girls 'the best' abortion options, that because they have not taken into account traditional ways of evaluation of which means of abortion is best, end up being ignored.

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#### Would you like to volunteer as AVM's Communications' lead?

I'm Nick Henwood, previously a cross cultural mission partner in Nepal, presently a GP (Family doctor) in Leicester, UK, and soon to be an Ordinand (trainee Church of England minister).

I have gradually come to see that taking a vulnerable stance is crucial if western missionaries want to be good news for others around the world. Over the past 2-3 years I've formatted AVM's monthly Bulletin (using Mailchimp) and prepared and queued posts for our three social media platforms. I now plan to step down from the role.

Have you enjoyed or been challenged by this edition of our Bulletin?

Are you passionate about encouraging others to live out our Bulletin work with humility? Do you have 2-3 hours a month available to volunteer with AVM?

Please email Jim ([jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)), including a short paragraph about yourself and why you feel suited to this role, and the contact details of someone senior in your church or mission who can vouch for you. I'll gladly support you as needed over the first months. Thanks!

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