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## Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

### October 2023

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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 [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

*This month's contents:*

**'Researching Africa in the Light of the 'Religions' of Anti-racism and Christianity'**

-

**Plans afoot to include Tamazight as language of learning (University World News)**

-

**Vulnerable Mission**

-

**An unexpected threat to the missionary's religious freedom**

-

**Hierarchy and inequality in research: Navigating the challenges of research in Ghana**

-

**MA or PhD in Religion**

**Focus area: Theologically Engaged Anthropology / Anthropology of Christianity**



**'Researching Africa in the Light of the 'Religions' of Anti-racism and**

## Christianity'

### ***En lieu of October webinar***

AVM chairperson Dr. Jim Harries speaks at the Centre of World Christianity at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London

**Date:** 18th October 2023

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 01:00 pm (UCT+1)

[Sign-up](#) for free to receive Zoom link.

Click [here](#) for abstract and speaker information.

..ooOoo..



### **Plans afoot to include Tamazight as language of learning (University World News)**

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230918120143243>

“In a bid to foster unity among the people of Morocco while also protecting the country’s cultural diversity, the government has announced plans to integrate the history, language and culture of the Amazigh, a group formerly known as the Berbers, into the teaching and research programmes at some universities.”

..ooOoo..



## Vulnerable Mission

<https://tunein.com/podcasts/Religion--Spirituality-Podcas/Heart-of-Mission-p1621686/?topicId=169682115>

In this episode of the Heart of Mission podcast series we unpack 'Vulnerable Mission', including what that means, what it looks like and why it is important for cross-cultural mission. We are excited to have a panel filled with global mission expertise and experience to discuss vulnerable mission and help us understand it better theoretically and practically in action. Our panel includes both current and former CMS SANT Gospel Workers.

..ooOoo..



## An unexpected threat to the missionary's religious freedom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFhpyz3TuW0>

Marcus explains: "And yet, vulnerable mission offers promising ways of seeking to 'decolonise' mission and the church, countering ongoing dependency on the West. Enabling and not restricting the religious freedom of vulnerable missionaries may therefore be crucial for an indigenous community's acquisition of faith that is orthodox yet based on their own cultural-linguistic foundations. This requires sending communities to trust their missionaries with such 'risky' approaches and be willing to learn from insights of field missionaries that may undermine some of what is commonly believed about intercultural understanding based on English in our supposedly 'global village'."

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## **Hierarchy and inequality in research: Navigating the challenges of research in Ghana**

DOI: 10.1177/14687941221098927

Qualitative research fills a particular and important niche in contributing understanding by the West of the Majority World. It aims to investigate and note 'thick' behaviour of people in communities. Once noted, quantitative researchers can then explore more of its parameters in quantitative detail. This instance of wanting to do disability research in Ghana qualitatively, illustrates foundational frustrations that arise from local people's perception of researchers from the West as over-generous donors. The outcome of this includes that people being researched may be determined to provide data that pleases researchers, regardless of 'local truth'. This frustrating aspect orients writers of this paper to proposing that research be conducted by locals. They fail to consider the difficulties that locally-guided research produces, particularly those of the 'cultural gap' that will remain between the content of research guided by locals and the innate comprehension of their reports by outsiders from the West, in this case Canada. In effect, the identified problem has been shifted from being between locals and field researchers, to between local researchers and foreign researchers.

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## **MA or PhD in Religion**

### **Focus area: Theologically Engaged Anthropology / Anthropology of Christianity**

*Are you interested in an MA or PhD degree focused on theologically engaged anthropology and/or the anthropology of Christianity? We are accepting new students and would be happy to be in touch with you to discuss your interests, our program, and what we can offer.*

#### **Dr. Derrick Lemons - Dr. Lemons**

(<https://religion.uga.edu/directory/people/j-derrick-lemons>) is a cultural anthropologist of religion. He directs the Center for Theologically Engaged Anthropology at the University of Georgia (<https://ctea.franklinresearch.uga.edu/>). More broadly, his research examines intentional innovations of Christians and the influence of theology in religion. Specifically, he focuses on the influence of evangelicals in American politics. He is interested in supervising MA or PhD students working in the anthropology of Christianity, Theologically Engaged Anthropology, Evangelical politics, and related areas.

#### **Dr. Ingie Hovland - Dr. Hovland**

(<https://religion.uga.edu/directory/people/ingie-hovland>) is a cultural and historical anthropologist of religion. She is especially interested in the many different histories, cultural practices, and social effects of Christianity in the world. Her work uses lenses from feminist theory and material religion studies to trace the interplay of gendered bodies, spaces, and words in particular social situations. She is interested in supervising MA or PhD students working in the anthropology of Christianity, the history of

Christianity, women/gender in Christianity, and related areas.  
Please reach out to the above if you are interested in applying!  
You can reach us via email  
at [dlemons@uga.edu](mailto:dlemons@uga.edu) and [ingiehovland@uga.edu](mailto:ingiehovland@uga.edu)

The application deadline is January 15. MA and PhD applications received by this date will be considered for funding and a tuition waiver. For further information on the application process, please see:

<https://religion.uga.edu/how-apply>

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