

PENIEL JESUDASON RUFUS RAJKUMAR

World Council of Churches

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EDUCATION

- 2006 PhD in Theology and Religious Studies
The University of Kent at Canterbury, UK
(St. Augustine's Foundation Scholar)
- 2003 Bachelor of Divinity
The United Theological College, Bangalore
*(Senate Prize for securing the first rank
among the autonomous colleges of the Senate of Serampore)*
- 1999 Master of Arts (English Literature)
The Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
(University First Rank, Awarded the President's Gold Medal)
- 1997 Bachelor of Arts
The Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
(History, Economics and English Literature)

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2018 - **Programme Coordinator, Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation**
World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland

- 2013-2017** Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2016 -** Associate Faculty Member, Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, (Affiliated to the University of Geneva,)
- 2008 – 2013** Associate Professor in the Department of Theology and Ethics
- Also served as Director of the Field Education Programme, Dean of Chapel and Faculty Secretary.
- 2005-2008** Assistant Curate – Diocese of London – Ministered in a Multi-Cultural, Inner-City, Urban Priority Area (UPA) Anglican Parish in North London.
- 2006** Part-Time Sessional Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies, University of Kent at Canterbury, UK.
- 2003** Probationer – Church of South India, Vellore Diocese

Other Academic Engagements:

- 2017** Visiting lecturer at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC (Sabbatical, January – April)

PUBLICATIONS

Sole Authored Volumes:

- Forthcoming** *Doing Dialogue 'Other-Wise': Rethinking Dialogue from the Margins*, (Geneva: World Council of Churches) *forthcoming*
- 2016, 2010** *Dalit Theology and Dalit Liberation: Problems, Paradigms and Possibilities*, (London, New York: Routledge, 2016) (Farnham: Ashgate, 2010) (Winner of the Frank Collison Award for Theological Writing 2010)
- 2007** *Challenges of Transition: Religion and Ethics in Changing Contexts*, (New Delhi: Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2007)

Edited

- 2016** ***Many Yet One: Multiple Religious Belonging***, Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2016, (with Joseph Prabhakar Dayam)
- 2015** ***Asian Theology on the Way: Christianity, Culture and Context***, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2015; first printed London: SPCK, 2012.
- 2014** ***Mission At and From the Margins: Patterns, Protagonists and Perspectives*** Oxford: Regnum, Edinburgh Centenary Series, 2014, (with Joseph Prabhakar Dayam and I. P. Asheervadham).
- 2013** ***Foundations for Mission***, Oxford: Regnum, 2013, (with Emma Wild-Wood)
- 2010** ***'Journeying with Christ'*** – A collection of sermons preached at the United Theological College on various occasions. (Special centenary publication project of the United Theological College, Bangalore, 2010)

Journal Editorship:

Current Dialogue, Journal of the Interreligious Dialogue Programme of the World Council of Churches (Since October 2013). Helped establish a contract for the journal to be published by **Wiley Blackwell** from 2019. (so far edited 4 issues of the journal)

Masihi Sevak: Journal of Christian Ministry of the United Theological College, Bangalore (June 2009 - May 2012).

Book Reviews Editor, ***The Ecumenical Review***, (2016 and 2017)

Member of the editorial board of ***The Bangalore Theological Forum*** the academic journal of the United Theological College, Bangalore from 2009-2012.

Book Endorsements:

Mario I. Aguilar, *Interreligious Dialogue and the Partition of India: Hindus and Muslims in Dialogue about Violence and Forced Migration*, (London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018).

Duane R. Bidwell, *When One Religion Isn't Enough: The Lives of Spiritually Fluid People*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 2018)

Articles: (Since January 2010)

Book Chapters:

“The Status of Other Paths,” in Michelle Voss Roberts and Chad Bauman (eds.), *Routledge Handbook on Hindu-Christian Relations*, (New York: Routledge, 2019)

‘Inter-Religious Relations’, in Kenneth Ross (ed.), *Edinburgh Companions to World Christianity*, Vol 3 on Christianity in South and Central Asia, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, April, 2019)

‘Text of Life and Text for Life: The Bible as the Living and Life-Giving Word of God for the Dalits’, in Melanie Baffes (ed.), *Text and Context: Vernacular Approaches to the Bible in Global Christianity*, (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2018), pp-121-129.

Chapters on ‘India and ‘Religious Violence’ in Mark Lamport and George Thomas Kurian (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the Global South* (New York / London: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018).

‘Other Faiths’, in Kenneth R. Ross, Jooseop Keum, Kyriaki Avtzi and Roderick R. Hewitt (eds.), *Ecumenical Missiology: Changing Landscapes and New Conceptions of Mission*, (Oxford/Geneva: Regnum/World Council of Churches, 2016), pp.218-234.

‘Towards a Post-M.M. Thomas Theology of Dialogue’ in Jesudas M. Athyal, George Zachariah, Monica Melanchthon (eds.), *The Life, Legacy and Theology of M. M. Thomas: Only Participants Earn the Right to be Prophets*, (New York: Routledge, 2016), pp.269-283.

‘Christian-Muslim Engagement in Contemporary India: Minority Irruptions of Majoritarian Faultlines’ in Douglas Pratt, Jon Hoover, John Davies and John A. Chesworth (eds.), *The Character of Christian-Muslim Encounter*, (Leiden: Brill, 2015), pp.326-342.

‘Metanoia as Method? Towards Re-sourcing and Re-forming Theological Methodology’, in J.P. Dayam and P.M. Larbeer (eds.), *Margins in Conversations: Methodological Discourses in Theological Disciplines*, (Bangalore: BTESSC, 2012), pp.134-147.

‘Dalit Theology: The ‘Untouched’ Touching Theology’ in Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar (ed.), *Asian Theology on the Way: Christianity, Culture and Context*, (London: SPCK, 2012), pp.132-141.

'Christian Ethics in Asia', in Robin Gill (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, (2nd Edition), (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, December 2011), pp.131-144.

'Public Ministry, Ethical Formation and Theological Education in India: An Exploration of Key Issues', in Dietrich Werner et al., (eds). *A Handbook of Theological Education in World Christianity*, (Oxford: Regnum in the U.K., Eugene: Wipf & Stock in the U.S, 2010), pp.161-169.

'The Diversity and Dialectics of Dalit Dissent and Implications for a Dalit Theology of Liberation', in Sathianathan Clarke et al., (eds). *Dalit Theology in the Twenty-First Century*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp.55-73.

'Christian Theologising and Social Thinking in India: Discerning Interconnections, Transitions and New Directions' – theme article in Vincent Rajkumar (ed.), *Christian Theologising and Social Thinking in India: Discerning Interconnections, Transitions and New Directions*, (Bangalore: Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, 2010), pp.1-14.

Journal Articles:

'Contextual-Rootedness, Other-Centredness and the Reshaping of Indian Theological Education', in *Bangalore Theological Forum*, Vol. L, No.2, 2018.

'Asian Ecumenical Contributions to Theologies of Justice and Peace', in *The Ecumenical Review*, Volume 69.4, December 2017, pp.570-584.

'Vision of God in Christian Scriptures', *Pro Dialogo*, (Issue on Seeking Truth Together: 1st Daoist-Christian Colloquium), Vol. 157, 2017/1.

'Babasaheb Ambedkar: Lessons on Transformation *through* and Trans-formation of Education', in *Bangalore Theological Forum*, Vol. XLVIII, No.2, December 2016, pp.14-21.

'Mission as a Burning Bush Experience of *Semper Reformanda* from the Margins', in *Reformed World*, Volume 64, Issue 3, December 2014, pp.39-50.

'Re-Cast(e)ing Conversions, Rethinking Dialogue: Indian Attempts At an Interfaith Theology of Wholeness', in *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, Volume 26, No.2, 2013, pp.157-171.

'A Prophetic, Polysemic and Proleptic Prompt', in *The Ecumenical Review* (Theme issue on "Towards a Common Vision of the Church") Volume 65, Issue 3, October 2013, pp. 338-341.

'In Witness to God's "With-ness": Dalit Theology, the God of Life, and the Path towards Justice and Peace', in *The Ecumenical Review*, Volume 64, Issue 4, December 2012, pp. 546–558.

' "A Radioactive Fallout, Not Lethal but Life-Giving": Implications of Bishop Lesslie Newbigin's Understanding of Mission for a Postmodern Context', in *Bangalore Theological Forum*, December 2011.

'How Does the Bible Mean? - The Bible and Dalit Liberation in India', in *Political Theology*, Vol.11, No.3, 2010 (London: Equinox), (pp.410-430).

'Relevant and Effective Theological Education in the Context of Twenty-First Century South Asia', (co-authored with John Joshva Raja) in *Teaching Theology & Religion*, (Wiley-Blackwell) Vol.13, No.3, Jul 2010, (p193-207)

LECTURES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Reading 'Other-Wise': Biblical Interpretation and the Wisdom of the Marginal 'Other', Paper presented at the Discernment and Radical Engagement Forum of the Council for World Mission, **Taiwan**, May 2019.

'A Gap to be Bridged, an Investment to be Made', Panel presentation on 'Towards Greater Spiritual Convergence for Equal Citizenship Rights', **5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, Baku, Azerbaijan**, 2-3 May 2019.

'Multiple Religious Belonging' – Author Meets Critique Session, **European Academy of Religion, Bologna**, March 2019.

Address at the panel presentation on 'Celebration of Diversity: beyond tolerance the path towards empathy', 13:00-14:30, Room XXIII – United Nations

Rev Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Programme Coordinator, Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, The World Council of Churches

'Hostile Identities, Hospitable Identifications: Subalterns Subverting Majoritarian 'Identity-fic(a)tions', Paper presented at the Discernment and Radical Engagement Forum of the Council for World Mission, **Mexico City, Mexico**, May 2018.

'Interfaith Hospitality' – Panel Presentation at the **European Academy of Religion – Zero Conference, Bologna, Italy**, June 2017.

'Interfaith Hospitality in a World of Islamophobia', Address in a Public Panel organised by the **Center for Public Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC**, March 30th 2017.

'Transformative Theological Education and the Future of the Ecumenical Movement', Keynote Address at the National Student's Theological Conference of the Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College, held in **Bangalore, India**, May 3rd-5th 2016.

Invited Response to the Lecture on **'Public Role of Religions: Contextual Insights and Systematic Theological Reflections'** by Prof. Dr Rudolf von Sinner, (Professor of Systematic Theology, Ecumenics and Interreligious Dialogue at the Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo/Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil), **Geneva**, February 15th, 2016

'Christian Resources for Building Life Affirming Communities' address in the seminar on "Interfaith Dialogue Towards Life Affirming Communities" organised by Bishop's College, Council for World Mission and Henry Martyn Institute, **Kolkata, India**, November 6th- 8th, 2015.

'Ek-Centric Engagement: Reshaping Christian Engagement in the Public Space from the Perspective of the Margins' paper presented at the Interfaith Consultation on "Religious Life and Public Space in Asia", **Tao Fong Shan Centre, Hong Kong**, September 3rd-7th, 2015.

Listener's response to papers presented at the conference on **'Buddhist and Christian Attitudes to Religious Diversity'** organised by the **University of Muenster** and the **Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon, Myanmar**, August 2015.

'Marginally Speaking: Re-visiting Dialogue from the Margins', paper presented at the International Theological Conference on Interfaith Dialogue held in **Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia**, May 26th-29th, 2014.

Panel presentation on **'Religion and Development'** in The Conference of Muslim-Christian Religious Leaders of Asia, "Bringing 'A Common Word' to Common Action for Justice in Asia", **Jakarta, Indonesia**, February 25th-March 1st, 2013.

'Metanoia' as Method? Towards Re-sourcing and Re-forming Theological Methodology, Paper Presented in the Workshop on 'Margins in Conversation: Methodological Discourses in Theological Disciplines', Organised by the Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College & The Ecumenical Christian Center, Ecumenical Christian Center, Whitefield, Bangalore, January 4th-6th, 2012.

'Re-Cast(e)ing Conversion, Re-visiting Dialogue: Indian Attempts Towards an Interfaith Theology of Wholeness' , in Conference on Anglicans and Other Faiths – A Century of Engagement, **Lambeth Palace, London**, December 7th-9th, 2011.

Delivered the **Annual Lectures** for Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture, Annual Lecture Series, **Kottayam, India**, November 14th, 2011.

'Mission At and From the Margins: Patterns, Protagonists and Perspectives', Presentation at the Edinburgh 2010 Conference, **Edinburgh, Scotland**, June 2010.

'Murder of Motivation as Motivation for Murder: Caste, Christianity and the Conversion Debate in India', Henry Martyn Centre, **Cambridge, United Kingdom**, May 19th, 2010.

'Christian Ethics, Culture and Climate Change in India', at the Global Consultation on Climate Change organised by the Department of Theology and Studies of the **Lutheran World Federation** in **Puri, Orissa, India**, March 2010.

Respondent at the launching of the **Kairos Palestine Document** 'A moment of truth: A word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering', **Bethlehem**, December 2009.

Presentation on **'Towards a Transforming Togetherness: Ecumenism in the 21st Century'**, at the WCC Continuation Committee held in **Belem, Brazil**, January 2009.

Lecture on **'Dalits, Caste and Slavery Today'**, as part of the **Commemoration of Abolition of Slavery Act** at the Amos Trust, Wallspace, **London, United Kingdom**, on July 4th, 2007.

Conferences / Workshops Organised:

Interreligious Panel on 'Education for Peace', United Nations, Geneva, December 10th, 2018

Interfaith Consultation on 'Interreligious Dialogue and Liberation', Siam Reap, Cambodia, August, 2018

Coordinated the organising of 40 workshops during the World Mission Conference in Arusha, Tanzania, March, 2018

Theological Consultation on Multiple Religious Belonging in Latin American Contexts, Matanzas, Cuba, December, 2017

Christian Confucian Dialogue on 'Harmony Between Christianity and Confucian Culture', Seoul and Andong, South Korea, October 2017

Theological Consultation on Multiple Religious Belonging in Northern European Context, Birmingham, December, 2016

Theological Consultation on Multiple Religious Belonging in the North American Context, Cleveland, Ohio, April, 2015

Theological Consultation on Multiple Religious Belonging in the Asian Context, Chennai, India, October 2014

'Mission At and From the Margins' – A Colloquium on Mission in Preparation for Edinburgh 2010 Mission Conference, Henry Martyn Institute, India, 2009

Since joining the World Council of Churches I have initiated and established a flagship interreligious training programme for WCC member churches in Asia called the Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity (YATRA). This programme has taken place in Siam Reap, Cambodia (2014 and 2015), Jakarta, Indonesia (2016 and 2017) and Hong Kong (2018)

OTHER INVOLVEMENT

Advisory Forum Member, **King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, (KAICIID)**, Vienna, Since 2016

Lecturer, Theology and Praxis Course, **Global Institute of Theology** – organised by World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), Yogyakarta, June-July 2012

Lecturer, 'Contemporary Theological Perspectives' and 'Contextual Realities and Impact of Globalisation' courses in the 28th **Advanced Studies Programme of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs**, held in Hong Kong, November-December 2010

Organiser, '**Interfacing for Emancipation: Dalit Theologians and Activists in Conversation for Collaboration**', (sponsored by the World Council of Churches) The Ecumenical Christian Centre, Whitefield, Bangalore, August 2010.

Coordinator, **Continuing Formation Course** for alumni of the United Theological College on the theme - '**Ethical Challenges for Churches in the 21st Century**', Bangalore, October 2011.

Coordinator, **Special Centenary Seminar** of the United Theological College on the theme - '**Reviewing and Renewing Partnership in Theological Education**', June 2010.

Founding Member - **Network of Contextually Engaged Theologians in India.**

Founding Member - **Indian Christian Ethics Circle.**

Member: **American Academy of Religion.**