

GLADSON JATHANNA
Assistant Professor of History of Christianities
Drew University Theological School, Madison, NJ
gjathanna@drew.edu

EDUCATION:

Doctor Theol., Institut für Ökumenische Theologie und Orientalische Kirchen- und Missionsgeschichte, Faculty of Theology, Georg August Universität, Göttingen/Germany, 2013

Master of Theology (MTh), Department of History of Christianity, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai/India, 2008

Bachelor of Divinity (BD), Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore/India, 2005

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Kannada Literature, Mangalore University, Mangalore/India, 2001

TEACHING:

Assistant Professor of History of Christianities, Drew University Theological School, Madison, NJ, Since Fall 2022

Associate Professor of History of Christianity, The Pacific Theological College, Suva/Fiji Islands, September 2019 to July 2022

Teaching Fellow, Trinity Methodist Theological College, Auckland/Aotearoa-New Zealand, since July 2020

Associate Professor of History of Christianity, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai/India, August 2018 to August 2019

Assistant Professor of History of Christianity and Mission Studies, Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore/India, June 2013 to July 2018:

Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter, Institut für Ökumenische Theologie und Orientalische Kirchen- und Missionsgeschichte, Georg August Universität, Göttingen, October 2009 to May 2013

Lecturer of History of Christianity and Mission Studies at Madras Theological Seminary and College, Chennai/India, June 2008 to September 2009:

COURSES TAUGHT AT DREW:

- Christian Communities in Contexts (co-taught with Prof. Dr. Traci West)
- reStorying Christianities – Beginnings to Reformations
- reStorying Christianities – Reformations to the Present
- Faith and Sexuality in the History of Christianities
- History of the Study of Religions (PhD Seminar)

HONOURS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- Karen McCarthy Brown Award for Excellence in Teaching, Awarded by the Graduate Division of Religion Student Association, April 2023
- Research Fellowship funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture (of Lower Saxony) for the project, *Redemption or Repression? The Work of Hermannsburg Women Missionaries with the Dalit Women in Andhra Pradesh* (2009 to 2013)
- General Proficiency Award, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, 2008
- Senate Prize in Biblical Studies for Old Testament, The Senate of Serampore College (University), 2005
- Union Biblical Seminary Prize in Old Testament, Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, 2005
- Academic Proficiency Award, Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore 2005
- Young Poet of the Year, Mangalore University, 1999

PUBLICATIONS:

Monographs:

2020. *Decolonising Oikoumene*. Delhi & Singapore: ISPCK & CWM.

2015. *Mode of Mutuality in the Margins of Mission. Hermannsburg Women's Mission in India*. Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications.

Edited Volumes:

2019. *Embracing Childhood – Embodying Childness: Relocating Children in Church and Society*. Chennai & Delhi: Gurukul Publications & Christian World Imprints (co-edited with Songram Basumatari).

2013. *Body, Emotion and Mind: 'Embodying' the Experiences in Indo-European Encounters*. Münster: LIT (co-edited with Martin Tamcke).

2012. *Construction of the Other, Identification of the Self. German Mission in India*. Münster: LIT (co-edited with Martin Tamcke).

Edited Journals:

2020. *The Pacific Journal of Theology*. Series II, No. 59 (co-edited with Upolu Luma Vaai and Faafetai Aiava).

2020. *The Pacific Journal of Theology*. Series II, No. 58 (co-edited with Upolu Luma Vaai).

Book Chapters:

2024. "Colonization, Conversion, and Co-option: Postcolonial Reflections." In *Climbing High Mountains: Colonial Entanglement & Postcolonial Reflections*. Edited by Ravinder Salooja. Pages: 15-26. Leipzig: Weltweit Verlag.

2023. "Decolonising Eucharist: Reclaiming Postcolonial Alternatives in the Face of Covid-19" In *The Church in Exile: Liturgy, Covid-19, and Lockdown Regulations*. Edited by Lilian Cheelo Siwila. Pages: 31-51. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publication.

2022. "Transformative Indigenous Queer Spiritualities: Journeying with Jogappas of India." In *Indigenous Transformative Spiritualities. For the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace*. Edited by Upolu Luma Vaai, Andres Pacheco Lozano and Betty Pries, 77-91. Geneva: WCC & Globethics.

2022. "Entangled Historiographies of Christian Missions: A Subaltern Conversation and Contention" in *Investigations on the "Entangled History" of Colonialism and Mission in a New Perspective*, edited by Moritz Fischer and Michael Thiel, 159-173, Berlin: LIT Verlag.

2021. "The Audacity to Resist and Recreate: Theological Education as Resistance Movement." In *Spiritualities of Resistance. A Festschrift in Honour of Hubert Watson*, 56-72. Edited by Anil Kumar F. New Delhi: ISPCK

2021. "(Re)searching Life: A Conversation at the Margins." In *Den Orient erforschen, mit Orthodoxen Leben. Festschrift fuer Martin Tamcke zum Ende seiner aktiven Dienstzeit*. Edited by Egbert Schlarb, 621-634. Wiesbaden: Herrassowitz.

2021. "Eucharist as Decolonial Practice: Celebrating Communion in the Context of Covid-19" In *Celebrating Living Theologies. Reflections from Diverse Specificities*. Edited by John Mohan Razu and Arun Kumar Wesley, 145-156. Bangalore: CISRS.

2020. "Postcolonial Re-imaginings: Interrogating Archival Space in Indo-European Encounters." In *Postkolonialismus, Theologie und die Konstruktion des Anderen / Postcolonialism, Theology and the Construction of the Other*. Edited by Britta Konz, Bernhard Ortmann and Christian Wetz, 170-183. Leiden: Brill.

2019. "Theologizing in Context: Towards Relevant Children-related Theologies." In *Embracing Childhood – Embodying Childness. Relocating Children in Church and Society*. Edited by Songram Basumatary and Gladson Jathanna, 73-88. Chennai & Delhi: Gurukul Publications & Christian World Imprints.
2018. "Gregory the *Theo-poet*: Re-chanting the Poems of Cappadocian Father Gregory of Nazianzus." In *Poetry and Theology*. Edited by Maros Nicak, 69-83. Jihlava/Slovakia: Jan Kerkovsky.
2017. "Rethinking Theological Education in Such a Time as This: Intensions for Radical Imagination." In *Re-imagining Reformation: Essays in Honor of P.G. Gorge*. Edited by Y.T. Vinayaraj, Dexter Maben and Woba James, 127-146. Delhi: ISPCK.
2016. "Partnership, Friendship and Dialogue" In *Partnerschaft, Freundschaft und Dialog: Beitrage zum Internationalen Symposium am Lehrstuhl fuer Oekumenische Theologie und Orientalische Kirchen- und Missionsgeschichte*. Edited by Martin Tamcke, 17-22. Muenster: LIT, 2016.
2016. "Re-inventing Invented Histories: Re-Reading the Idea of History in M. M. Thomas." In *Journeys into the Deep: Hermeneutical Patterns of M.M. Thomas*. Edited by C.I. David Joy and P. Mohan Larbeer, 210-218. Bangalore: BTESSC.
2015. "Communion Beyond Binaries: The Margins of Mission Revisited." In *Communion on the Move: Towards a Relevant Theological Education. Essays in Honour of Bishop John Sadananda*. Edited by Wati Longchar and P. Mohan Larbeer, 27-37. Bangalore: BTESSC.
2015. "Historiographical Re-imaginings: Interrogating Archival Space." In *Theological Research in the Global South: Prospects and Challenges*. Edited by P.G. George, 84-95. Serampore: SATHRI.
2015. "White Subalterns: Relocating Missionary Women in the Gendered Historiography of Mission." In *Borders and Margins: Re-visioning Ministry and Mission*. Edited by Dexter Maben, 113-128. Tiruvalla, Bangalore: CSS and UTC.
2015. "Kuvempu and M.M. Thomas: *Sahrdaya* Voices Propagating the Message of *Saroodaya*." In *Reclaiming Manyness: Re-reading M.M. Thomas in the Light of Indian Christian Theologies*. Edited by P.G. George and Y.T. Vinayaraj, 153-166. Serampore: SATHRI.
2012. "Negotiating Borders and Bridges: Indian Biblewomen in Hermannsburg Mission." In *Construction of the Other, Identification of the Self. German Mission in India*. Edited by Martin Tamcke and Gladson Jathanna, 67-74. Münster: LIT Verlag.

2012. "Cross, Crown and Culture: Revisiting the Place of the Orient in the Edinburgh 1910." In *Orientalische Christen und Europa: Kulturbegegnung zwischen Interferenz, Partizipation und Antizipation*. Edited by Martin Tamcke and Arthur Manukyan, 93-100. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

2011. "Biblewomen and the Missionary Ideal of the Hermannsburg Mission in India." In *„Die Mission ist Weiblich“ Missionarsfrauen, Missionsfreudinnen und Bibelfrauen In den ersten beiden Generationen der Hermannsburger Mission*. Edited by Jobst Reller, 125-132. Münster & Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2011.

2010. "Oriental Experiences and Representation: Indian Native Women in the Basel Missionaries' Discourse." In *Orthodoxie, Orient und Europa: Kulturbegegnung zwischen Imagination und Realität*. Vol. 2. Edited by Martin Tamcke and Arthur Manukyan, 115-142. Würzburg: LIT Verlag.

Journal Articles:

2021. "The Audacity to be Heretics: Reliving the Life of MM Thomas." *People's Reporter. A Forum of Current Affairs*. Vol. 34/Issue 22. December 10-24: Pages 5-6.

2020. "'Let the House Speak': Memorialising the Islander Missionaries Chapel for Re-storying Ecumenism as the Pacific Household of God" (co-authored with Upolu Luma Vaai) *The Pacific Journal of Theology Series II*, No. 59: 04-20.

2020. "Political Consciousness in the Face of Fascism: Remembering Historian B. Surendra Rao." *People's Reporter. A Forum of Current Affairs*. Vol. 33/Issue 01. January 10 - 25: Pages 6-7.

2020. "Resistance, Resilience and Radical Justice: Reimagining Theological Research in the Pacific." *The Pacific Journal of Theology Series II*, No. 58: 116-135.

2017. "Gregory of Nazianzus and His Poems." *SATHRI Journal* Vol. XI, No.3, September: 35-50.

2016. "Relocating M. M. Thomas' Idea of History in the Face of Imperial Histories." *Religion and Society* Vol. 16, No. 3 & 4, Sept-Oct:13-25.

2016. "Spirit Deified and Spirits Demonized: The Euro-Christian Representation of Bhuta/Spirit Worship in Tulunadu." *SATHRI Journal* Vol. X No.1, April: 26-48.

2016. "Faith, Fear and Freedom in the Face of Empire." *NCC Review* Vol. CXXXVI, No. 03, April: 129-134.

2015. "Muscular Manhood in Making the Nation: Gendered Face of Jewish Nationalism and Pentecostal Zionism." *SATHRI Journal* Vol. IX No.2, October: 159-169.

2014. "Mode of Mutuality: A Methodological Interrogation to the Gendered Historiography of Christian Mission." *Master's Journal of Theology* Vol. 4, Issue2, December: 64-75.

2010. "Missionary Knowledge and Native Experience: Representation of Indian Women in the Basel Missionaries' Discourse." *Gurukul Journal of Theological Studies* Vol. XXI, No. 1, January: 90-114.

2009. "Indigenous Religion, Missionaries, and Representation: A Reading of the Basel Mission Reports (1836-1860) from the Margin." *Indian Church History Review* 43/1: 37-61.

Book Reviews:

2019. Gandhi in South Africa: A Racist or A Liberator? by Siby K. Joseph. *Gandhi Marg Quarterly* 41(4), 2019: 473-477.

2019. Ministerial Challenges in the Contemporary World: Towards A Transformative Theological Education by Limuel Equina and Wati Longchar (eds.) *SATHRI Journal: A Journal of Contextual Theology* Vol.XIII. No.2, October 2019: 108-112.

2008. Understanding Subaltern History: Theoretical Tools by V.V. Thomas. *Gurukul Journal of Theological Studies* 19/1: 208-210.

Blogs:

Devotional Thoughts and Random Reflections: <http://daivakavya.blogspot.com>

Collection of Poetries: <http://inbetweenshits.blogspot.com>

PRESENTATIONS:

Why tell the stories differently? – Historiographical samvaada on the study of "Church History" in theological education. Presented a Keynote Address at the conference *reWeaving Theological Education* organized by the Trinity Methodist Theological College and the College of St. John, Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand, May 25, 2024.

Dalit Theology and Mission. Responded to a Spotlight Presentation on Dalit Theology by Dr. Surekha Nelavala at the eDARE webinar organized by the Council for World Mission, May 16, 2022.

Key-Panelist in a Live Series *The Mutual Sensibilities of Dharma, Mazhab, and Religion* on TCN Media, hosted by INADS (Institute for Advanced Sciences), Dartmouth, USA, November 8, November 15, December 13 & December 20, 2022

Colonialism, Conversion and Co-option: Postcolonial Reflections. Paper presented in an online symposium on “Climbing High Mountains. Colonial Entanglements and Postcolonial Reflections” organized by the Leipzig Mission, Germany, 28-29 October 2021.

Anti-Racist in Christ? Ecumenical Christian Repentance, Reflection and Action on Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia. Panelist in an e-conference organized by World Council of Churches and Council for World Mission, 14-17 June 2021.

Entangled Historiographies of Christian Mission: A Subaltern Conversation and Contention. Paper presented in an international webinar on “Investigations on the “entangled history” of colonialism and mission in a new perspective”, 20th Ludwig Harms Symposium organized by the Fachhochschule fuer Interkulturelle Theologie, Hermannsburg/Germany, 28-29 May 2021.

Re-imagining Ekklesia in the Context of Covid-19. Paper presented in a webinar on “Learning to be the Ekklesia through the context of Corona” organized by the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (CISRS), 11 May 2020.

Capturing Resistance, Resilience & Gender Justice in Research. Paper presented during the “Theological Colloquium” organized by the CSI-Synod, Chennai/India, 12 August 2019.

Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Christian Artists. Lecture delivered in the “Art Camp-2009” organized by the Church of South India-Synod, Chennai/India, 18 July 2019.

World Christianities as De-territorializing Movements: Towards a Mission of the Multitude. Lecture given at the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology (FIT), Hermannsburg/Germany, 18 December 2018.

The Relationship between Individual and Society in different religious traditions. Held lectures at the Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha/India, 17-18 November 2018.

Revisiting Theological Education in India Today. Paper presented at the Faculty Research Seminar, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai/India, 15 November 2018.

Liberation Theology and Beyond: Methodological Issues. Paper presented in the national consultation on “Liberation Theology and Beyond” organized by the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary and Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (CISRS), Kottayam/India, 17-18 October 2018.

From Marginality to Mutuality: A Journey Beyond Postcolonialism. Paper presented in an international consultation on “Postcolonialismus und was dann?” organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Missionswissenschaft at Wuppertal/Germany, 09-13 September 2018.

The Reciprocity of Indian Christian Writings and the Indian Secular Writings: A Critical Appraisal. Paper presented in a Writers' Workshop on "The mighty keyboard: Missional workshop for the writers of 21st Century" organized by CSI-Synod, Chennai/India, 7-9 June 2018.

Jesus and Sharanbasaveshwara: Champions of Social Justice. Paper presented in a Consultation on "The Life and Work of Sharanbasaveshwara" at Sharanbasava University, Gulbarga/India, 28-29 April 2018.

Margins, Marginality and Interreligious Dialogue. Lecture given at the Face to Face Programme of the Council for World Mission hosted at Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad/India, 09-11 March 2018.

Competing Fundamentalism in the 21st Century. Lecture given at the Face to Face Programme of the Council for World Mission hosted at Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad/India, 09-11 March 2018.

Negotiating Borders and Bridges: Rethinking Christian Mission. Paper presented in a Consultation on "Rethinking Ecclesia" organized by the Synod of the Church of South India, Chennai/India, 22-23 February 2018.

Evangelism from the Margins. Paper presented in the Consultation on Evangelism organized jointly by WCC and CWM at Bangkok/Thailand, 28 November 2017.

Empire and Globalization. Lecture given at the consultation on "Re-imagining the Public Witness of the Church in South Asia" organized by Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, Bangalore and Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue, Colombo in Colombo/Sri Lanka, 23-27 September 2017.

Decolonizing the Divine: Interrogating Victorian Ideals in Asia, book project proposal presented in Fortress Press Writers' Workshop on "Interrogating and Reconstructing Theology in South Asia" in Bangalore/India, 25-26 August, 2017.

Post-colonial Perspectives on Evangelism: Evangelism as Violence, Sinful Evangelism. Paper presented in a Seminar on "De-centred Perspectives on Evangelism" organized by CWM in Jakarta/Indonesia, 19-23 July 2017.

Bible, Empire and Resistance. Paper presented in a consultation on "Resistance and Prophetic Witness" in Kolkata/India, 3-5 March 2017.

Theological Creativity and Diversity in the History of Christian Thoughts. Paper presented in the Indian Theological Students' Conference on the theme, "Church amidst Diversity" organized by the Carey Society, United Theological College, Bangalore/India, 23-25 January 2017.

Theological Education and Radical Imagination: Intentions for Alternative Thinking. Paper presented at the Consultation on "Theological Education as Transformative

Praxis" organized jointly by the Council for World Mission, BTESSCE and Bishop's College, Kolkata/India, 27-30 November 2016.

Postcolonial Re-imaginings. Interrogating Archival Space in Indo-European Encounters. Paper presented at the Conference on "Wir und die ‚Anderen‘? Erkundungen im Grenzgebiet von Postkolonialismus und Theologie" organized by the Institut fuer Evangelische Theologie und Religionspaedagogik, Oldenburg University, Germany, 5-6 August 2016.

Hindu Nationalism and Gendered Imaginations. Lecture given at a Summer Consultation for Theology Students on "Removing the Blinders: Healing in our Work," organized by the ISET-Ecumenical Christian Center, Bangalore/India, 16-20 May 2016.

Revisiting the Idea of History in M. M. Thomas in the face of Invented Histories. Paper presented in a symposium on "Remembering MM Thomas: Re-imagining Christian Public Witness in India Today" organised jointly by Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society and Tiruvalla Ecumenical Charitable Trust, UTC, Bangalore/India, 12-13 May 2016.

'Engendering' emotions, 'embodying' experiences: Reclaiming the body in an Indo-European encounter. Paper presented in an international conference on "Reclaiming the Body: Gender, Sexuality and Violence" organized by the Department of Sociology, University of Pune, Pune/India, 29 February 2016.

Feminist Historiographies: Feminist Methodological Reconstructions. Paper presented at the ISET-ECC & FFRC Annual Joint Seminar, Ecumenical Christian Center, Bangalore/India, 24-25 November 2015.

Postcolonial Historiography: Postcolonial Interrogation of an Archival Research. Paper presented at the ISET-ECC & FFRC Annual Joint Seminar, Ecumenical Christian Center, Bangalore/India, 24-25 November 2015.

Mission Moves beyond Gendered Binaries. Paper presented in an international seminar on "Mission Moves–Bicentenary Celebration of Basel Mission" organized jointly by the Church of South India Synod and CSI-KSD, Mangalore/India, 8-9 October 2015.

Partnership, Friendship and Dialogue. Festvortrag on the 60th Birthday of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Martin Tamcke, Goettingen/Germany, 22 June 2015.

Methodological Issues in the History of Christianity. Paper presented in D.Th. Research Methodology Seminar. South Asia Theological Research Institute, UTC, Bangalore/India, 26 May 2015.

Mission of Humanisation: Perspectives and Challenges. Paper presented in a Panel on Youth and Human Rights, St. Aloysius College, Mangalore/India, 12 December 2014.

Historiographical Re-imaginings. Paper presented in a national conference "Theological Research in the Global South: Prospects and Challenges." SATHRI Jubilee National Consultation, South Asia Theological Research Institute, Senate of Serampore, Kolkata/India, 15-17 August 2014.

For Such a Time as This: Discerning Christian Public Witness. Paper presented in a College Retreat. United Theological College, Bangalore/India, 29 – 30 July 2014.

'Engendering' emotions, 'embodying' experiences: encountering a ritually 'purified' body of a Biblewoman. Paper presented in an international conference "Body, Emotion and Mind: 'Embodying' the Experiences in Indo-European Encounters." Georg-August-Universität Göttingen/Germany, 23-24 November 2012.

Hermannsburg Missionary Women and Indian Native Women: Subaltern Agents of Mutual Humanity? Paper presented in an international conference "Frauen in der Hermannsburger Mission im 20. Jh." Ludwig-Harms Symposium, Ev.-luth. Missionswerk in Niedersachsen, Hermannsburg/Germany, 16-17 November 2012.

Are Omissions Accidents? Mission Archives between Imagination and Reality. Paper presented in an international conference "Science Transfer as Cultural Dialogue." Franckesche Stiftungen, Halle and Rojah Muthiah Research Library, Chennai/India, 23-24 February 2012.

Negotiating Borders and Bridges: Indian Biblewomen in Hermannsburg Mission. Paper presented in an international conference "Konstruktionen des Anderen, Identifikationen des Eigenen. Deutsche Mission in Indien." Georg-August-Universität Göttingen/Germany, 19 February 2011.

Biblewomen and the Missionary Ideal of the Hermannsburg Mission in India. Paper presented in an international conference "Die Mission ist Weiblich." Ludwig-Harms Symposium, Ev. -luth. Missionswerk in Niedersachsen, Hermannsburg/Germany, 19-20 November 2010.

Cross, Crown and Culture: Revisiting the Place of the Orient in the Edinburgh 1910. Paper presented in an international conference "Orientalische Christen und Europa. Kulturbegegnung zwischen Interferenz, Partizipation und Antizipation." Georg-August-Universität Göttingen/Germany, 25-26 June 2010.

Krone, Christus und Kaste: Stolpersteine iminterreligiösen Dialog. Eine indische christliche Perspektive. Paper presented at Partnerschaftsseminar Indien, Alsfeld/Germany, 8 May 2010.

Cultures in Contact: The Question of Representation and Subjectivity in Mission History. Paper presented at the international conference 'Kulturen in Kontakt: Herstellung, Struktur und Wirkung europäisch-chinesischer Interaktionsräume,' Georg-August-Universität Göttingen/Germany, 4 July 2010.

A Subaltern Indian Christology: An Affirmation of Humanisation. Paper presented at the Pastors' Conference, Kassel-Hofgeismar/Germany, 4 November 2009.

Reservation: From a Minority Perspective. Paper presented (jointly with N. G. Prasuna and Paul Sudhakar) at the Chennai Intercollegiate Seminar, Chennai/India, 18 August 2007.