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Missiology as Global Conversation of (Contextual) Theologies

Author: [Kirsteen Kim](#)

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Missiology and contextual theology are related but not equivalent. Missiology arose from the study of mission activity in Africa, Asia and Latin America but has come to be understood as the study of the mission of God in the whole world that participates. Global and cross-cultural perspectives are essential to missiology and these challenge all theological perspectives that contextual theology degenerates into relativism, but in mission all theologies are challenged to recognize their common Christian confession. Grounded in an understanding of *missio Dei* that includes a creative missiology can and should affirm contextual theologizing while encouraging and facilitating theologians from different cultures in conversation. "Conversation" is preferred over "dialogue" because there are many partners from around the world, with widely varying access to social power among the participants.



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