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Editor's Introduction

Marc Roscoe Loustau

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THE JOURNAL OF GLOBAL CATHOLICISM is an international, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal. Its purpose is to foster the understanding of diverse forms of lived Catholicism with attention to their significance for theoretical approaches in anthropology, history, sociology, media studies, psychology, theology, and philosophy.

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ON THE COVER

St. Mary's Church, Newark, October 2017

MARC LOUSTAU

Introduction



Dr. Marc Roscoe Loustau is a cultural anthropologist and expert on Eastern European religion and politics. He is author of numerous articles and a monograph, *Hungarian Catholic Intellectuals in Contemporary Romania: Reforming Apostles* (Palgrave MacMillan Press, 2022). He has given commentary for the BBC and France 24 and has been a guest on the Fast Politics Podcast with Molly Jong-Fast. His opinion articles and essays have appeared in *America: The Jesuit Review*, *La Croix International*, *Christian Century*, and *National Catholic Reporter*.

This issue of the *Journal of Global Catholicism* features three articles from diverse disciplinary perspectives, regions, and Catholic historical contexts, as well as three interviews with emerging scholars of global Catholicism, Dr. Francis Galasi, Dr. Hansol Goo, and Dr. Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska.

Ozan Can Yilmaz’s article, “Sacred Space and Self: Feminist Reflections in the Church of Mary,” is based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted at a pilgrimage site and shrine at the Church of Mary in Ephesus, Turkey. There are few Christians in Turkey today, yet the Church of Mary is an active and popular Catholic pilgrimage site; indeed, it has received multiple papal blessings, most recently by Pope Benedict XVI, as Yilmaz notes. Pilgrims come from Turkey itself as well as farther afield to visit the home where Mary, the mother of Jesus, is purported to have lived. Yilmaz’s approach in this article – combining participant observation, interviews, and feminist theological reflection – dovetails nicely with the *JGC*’s commitment to innovative interdisciplinarity. Although Yilmaz’s disciplinary identification includes social scientific fields like the Anthropology of Gender, he has also sought out publishing opportunities in humanities and theological journals like *Feminist Theology*; and he has effectively engaged with the background professional literature in these various disciplines, which is evident in his contribution to this issue.

Kefas Lamak writes about another phenomenon that has become synonymous with global religious formations: “Reverse Missions” refers to the phenomenon of Christian religious communities, rooted in Latin American and African historical and social worlds, that enact a global worldview of “God’s kingdom” by founding satellite or offshoot movements in North America and Western Europe. The phenomenon, although associated with Charismatic/Pentecostal movements, is also playing out in the Catholic Church, Lamak argues. It shapes the self-consciousness and vocational worldview of African priests active in an Iowa diocese. Lamak, in his article, “Trends and Shifts: Migration Reverse Missions, and African Catholic Priests in Iowa City, USA,” explores the priests’ experiences through a combination of participant observation and ethnographic interviewing. Loustau’s piece, “The Secrets of Christian Others: Hungarian Catholic Intellectuals Debate Ecumenism at a Transylvanian Pilgrimage Site,” rounds out the issue by exploring the

intellectual dynamics of secret Catholic-Protestant conflict set against the backdrop of a moral obligation to perform ecumenical harmony at the Hungarian national shrine in Transylvania, Romania.

This issue also features three interviews with scholars of global Catholicism, Dr. Hansol Goo, Dr. Francis Galasi, and Dr. Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska. In 2023, Dr. Goo, Assistant Professor of Liturgical Theology at College of Saint Benedict and St. John's University, published an article based on her research in the *Journal of Global Catholicism* after participating in a *JGC* colloquium for advanced graduate students organized and facilitated by Mathew Schmalz. Her research interlards Catholic Systematic Theology with multisited ethnographic participant observation of Koran Catholic communities in North America. Dr. Galasi, a musician and historian, studies early modern medicine and food cultures in the Spanish Philippines and received his PhD from Johns Hopkins University's Department of History in 2022. Dr. Baraniecka-Olszewska, who has an appointment with the Polish Academy of Sciences, in the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, speaks from her position in a region of Europe that is undergoing significant changes as a result of the war in Ukraine. These changes have affected researchers who work on the history and current practice of global Catholicism as much as others.

The interviews, conducted and curated by Founder & Editor-in-Chief Matthew Schmalz, are part of the ongoing series about the current and future state of the field. The series represents the *JGC*'s effort to contribute to academic conversations across multiple platforms, formats, and media; the podcast-style interviews build on Schmalz's extensive experience producing public-facing research and commentary. We are, as always, grateful for curatorial, design, and organizational contributions from Dr. Thomas Landy through his work for the Catholics & Cultures program, Assistant Director for Communications Sarah Potter, and Ruby Francis, Program Coordinator in the McFarland Center.