

IJAC 8-1, 2025

Abstracts

Hybrid Religious Festivity as an Interreligious Civil Sphere in Central Java, Indonesia

Izak Lattu

Abstract

While previous works focus on theological and philosophical approaches to interfaith dialogue, this study explores an interreligious civil sphere through a cultural sociology lens. This article explores the *Saparan-Aprilan* (purification ritual) as a hybrid festivity in Central Java, Indonesia. The festivity is based on Christian narratives, local cultural texts and Indonesian political codes as a social script for civic engagement. Although *Saparan* took a new form after the conversion of the local community into Christianity, the meaning of Javanese purification remains densely present in the *Aprilan* celebration. Using an ethnographic approach through participant observations and in-depth interviews with interreligious communities on the Merbabu mountainsides in 2017 – 2023, this study concludes that a hybrid festivity creates an interreligious civil sphere for mutual understanding through indigenous performances, cultural texts and political scripts.

***Pananagútan*: A Multifaceted Framework for Filipino Theological Ethic of Responsibility**

C Paul Mojica

Abstract

Lynn White's critique of Christianity for its role in environmental degradation has led to an emergence of alternative ethical paradigms not centered on utilitarian appraisals of the environment. This paper examines the distinct theological features of approaches from Asian evangelical theologians Ken Gnanakan and Athena Gorospe. Following that, I will present a framework for theological ethics of responsibility inherent in the Filipino lingua-cultural concept of *pananagútan*. This concept not only integrates key theological principles that form the foundation of Christian environmental ethics but also acknowledges the imperative for a nuanced approach that recognizes the intrinsic and instrumental value of all forms of life. *Pananagútan* contributes to the ongoing discourse on theological ethics, offering a multifaceted approach to responsible use of the natural world.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Discourse and Far-Right Political Rallies in South Korea

Park, Sunkyo

Abstract

There has been a recent revival of interest in Dietrich Bonhoeffer in South Korean society. The far-right group cited and used Bonhoeffer's discourse, "You can't let a madman drive the wheel," at their political rallies. They framed their argument by comparing the progressive government to Hitler's Nazi regime. Progressive theologians and the Bonhoeffer Society in South Korea argued that this use of the discourse was incorrect and misleading. This paper raises numerous concerns regarding the controversy, as it reveals the existence of a group of far-right Protestants within the South Korean church. The group has a strong anti-communist stance. The paper critically

examines the significance of Bonhoeffer's discourse and the far-right Protestant in the South Korean church.

From Anatolia to Nusantara: The Contemporary Dynamics and Challenges of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Mission in Indonesia

Hadza Min Fadhli, Robby Reynaldo, Krissancha Azarya

Abstract

This research is dedicated to analyze the existence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate mission in Indonesia and its current position in the context of contemporary socio-political dynamics in Indonesia. This paper then will further analyze how Ecumenical Patriarchate mission came to Indonesia and how it developed its missionary efforts up to this day. This paper will also address the challenges Ecumenical Patriarchate encounters throughout its mission, both internal and external. This paper argues that both the internal dynamics within the Ecumenical Patriarchate community in Indonesia and the external factors, such as rigid definition of 'legal religious community' in Indonesia hinders the Ecumenical Patriarchate from obtaining full-fledged recognition from the Indonesian government. This research will engage with the concept of religious freedom to fully comprehend the perilous position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate community in Indonesia. This research uses qualitative methods by looking into both primary and secondary sources, employing interviews to comprehensively understand the dynamics of Ecumenical Patriarchate in Indonesia.

Declaration of Faith' and Dissenting Dalit Voices:

Two Conflicting Narratives of Lived Religion among Christian Youth in Andhra

Ashok Kumar Mocherla

Abstract

This essay attempts to critically examine the notion of 'declaration of faith' in the contemporary South Indian socio-political context, primarily to analyze and bring forth new patterns of social conflict between 'believed religion' and 'lived religion' in the process of raising Christian testimony by youth on University/College campuses. With that premise, it looks at how the State declared religious identity could effectively undermine the personal religious convictions of individuals and social groups, in this particular case the Dalit Christians, when minority religious institutions and organizations transform themselves into subordinate bureaucratic structures of the State. Further, it also explores how the essentializing aspects of identity tend to suppress the social aspirations of individuals/social groups by transforming the imposed boundaries of identity, identity politics, and associated stereotypical perceptions into active sources of internal social conflict. Central arguments of this paper are largely informed and guided by empirical field-data collected from the coastal Andhra Pradesh.