



ECUMENE: CALL FOR PAPERS EDITION 6

Publisher of the Scalabrinian Center for Migration Studies - CSEM

Theme of the volume: Human mobility and religious change

1. OBJECT

Publication of volume 6 of the Ecumene Series of books on theology and human mobility by the publishing house of the Scalabrinian Center for Migration Studies - CSEM, a project developed in partnership with CLAR - Confederación Latinoamericana de Religiosos.

The books will be published in Portuguese and Spanish, in digital format, and possibly also in English. A Portuguese version will be published simultaneously in printed form.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ECUMENICAL SERIES

- To promote studies, studies, events and publications about theology and human mobility
- Promoting an inclusive ecclesial understanding of human mobility and its actors
- Strengthen social and pastoral work among people on the move
- To promote the production of both scientifically rigorous and didactic material that can be used in ecclesial and extra-ecclesial training programs
- To give visibility to and strengthen the efforts of academic researchers and scholars on the topic of migration in an ecclesial context
- To promote intercultural and interreligious dialog among actors in the area of migration and refuge.

PROFILE VOLUME 6 TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2026

*“How could we sing a song of Yahweh
in a foreign land?” (Sl 137:4)*

Human mobility is crossed by different variables, meaning that multiple disciplines and knowledge must be involved in its understanding and epistemological analysis. This publication aims, among others, to establish several connections between human mobility and the 'other religious', taking into account the risks involved in addressing the religious event. For several years now, the social scenario that we are facing around the world has been reopening the debate on the socio-cultural and religious integration of migrants and refugees in host countries/societies: can we live together? That is the obligatory question.



Religious otherness generates uncomfortable questions and sparks passionate discussions, in the academia, as well in the media. The religious belief systems and practices of the “others” have often been presented as insuperable differences, since they can compromise the identity of the host societies (Odgers, 2013). This exaggerated view of the matter does not contribute to the building of open, diverse, intercultural and interreligious societies. However, this fatalistic message is often used at specific social moments to generate alarm and divisions. However, although on some occasions the religious element has generated social “difficulties”, it should also be noted that religious belief systems, practices and institutions have been fundamental in generating spaces for coexistence and have been a relevant resource for migrant integration processes in host countries (Levitt, 2004 and 2008).

Human mobility, regardless of its category, includes also the migration of religious worldviews. God doesn't need a passport (Levitt, 2007a, 2007b). As people migrate, so do their religious beliefs and practices. But what is the impact of the migration process on people's individual and communal beliefs and practices? As Psalm 137 points out, how does one live faith in a foreign land or, even worse, during the (sometimes very long) “migratory transit” or being “stuck” for months at the border of a foreign country waiting for a visa, away from any reference of identity?

The academic literature on the subject is not unanimous. There are many variables involved. The migration process can generate a stronger faith (migration as a “theological experience” by Timothy Smith (apud Warner, 2000), the abandonment of faith or religious practices or even a reconfiguration of both beliefs and practices (Marinucci, 2012). The abandonment of old identity references (Peter Berger's “important interlocutors” (1985). Meeting the new, including new experiences and new daily challenges, tends to produce changes in worldviews.

In addition to the subjective faith, religious institutions themselves are not immune to these challenges. The “migration” of religious institutions (traditions) into new regions - especially when they are culturally very different from the home of those traditions - inevitably generates the challenge of dealing with “external diversity”, in a process of syncretism - recognized or not - which leads religions to expand their symbolic frontiers in order to adapt to the new external context, which brings more or less marked changes (Pace, 2009a, 2009b). Latin American Catholicism is not identical to European Catholicism, just as European Islam is not identical to that of the Arabian Peninsula. How do religious traditions deal with external diversity and adapt to new geographical and socio-cultural contexts?

The aim of this book is to analyze the changes that take place in the subjective faith and religious institutions in the context of the mobility of human individuals and religious traditions, identifying the variables involved.

BERGER, Peter (1985). *O dossel sagrado*. Elementos para uma teoria sociológica da religião. São Paulo: Paulus.

LEVITT, Peggy (2007a). Rezar por encima de las fronteras: cómo los inmigrantes están cambiando el panorama religioso. *Migración y desarrollo*, primer semestre, p. 66-88.

_____ (2007b). *God Needs No Passport*. Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape. New Press.

MARINUCCI, Roberto. Reconfiguração da identidade religiosa em contexto migratório. *Estudos de Religião*, v. 26, n. 42, pp. 169-191, jan./jun. 2012.

Odgers Ortiz, Olga. (2013). Religión e integración: Creencias y prácticas de los inmigrantes. *Migración y desarrollo*, v. 11, n. 21, p. 133-157.



PACE, Enzo (2009a). Narrar Deus: a religião como meio de comunicação. *Revista Brasileira de Ciências Sociais*, v. 24, n. 70, p. 9-15.

_____ (2009b). *Raccontare Dio*. La religione come comuncazione. Bologna: Il Mulino.

WARNER, R. Stephen (2000). Religion and New (Post-1965) Immigrants: Some Principles Drawn from Field Research. *American Studies*, v. 41, n. 2/3, p. 267-286.

1. EDITORS

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Jennifer Gómez Torres – Universidad Pontificia Comillas Madrid (Spain)

2. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE ECUMENE SERIES

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10. Maria Helena Morra - Post-doctorate in Education and Master in Theology - Member of the Team of Theologians Advising the CLAR Presidency - ETAP and of the CLAR Migration and Refugee Commission.



11. Marileda Baggio - PhD in Theology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rome. Post-doctorate (PNPD) at the Pontifical Catholic University of Porto Alegre. Advisor to the ESI Education Network. Co-organizer of Volume 3.
12. Marilu Rojas. PhD in Systematic Theology. Feminist theologian and professor at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and in Mexico's theological community. Director of Sophias magazine (Mexico). Co-organizer of volume 5.
13. Paulo Ueti - Doctor of Exegesis and Biblical Theology. Theological advisor and Director for Latin America in the Department of Cooperation, Development, Advocacy and Humanitarian Aid of the Anglican Communion. Co-organizer of volume 3.
14. Roberto Marinucci - Master in Missiology. Vice-Director of CSEM and Editor-in-Chief of the Revista Interdisciplinar da Mobilidade Humana - REMHU. Co-organizer of Volume 6.
15. Wellington da Silva de Barros. Doctor in Science of Religion from PUC São Paulo, Doctor in Theology from Urbaniana by SIMI/Rome, professor of Theology at ITESP and collaborator with the Scalabrinan Missionary Sisters. Co-organizer of Volume 5.

3. PROPOSED AUTHORS

The publishing house of the Centro Scalabriniano de Estudos Migratórios - CSEM, the CLAR - Confederación Latinoamericana de Religiosos and the organizers of this volume, through this call for papers, INVITE researchers, professors, graduate students and professionals, working in ecclesial contexts with the presence of people who are in situations of human mobility, to collaborate in the development of the Ecumene Series Collection on the subject: **Human mobility and religious change**.

Articles submitted by authors who do not have experience in working directly in contexts of human mobility require co-authorship with another author who has experience in directing studies or working with migrants/refugees or other categories of people in situations of mobility.

4. HOW TO APPLY

Interested authors must pre-register by April 30, 2025 and submit the final article by July 30, 2025, by email to assessoria@csem.org.br and copy to centrodeestudos.csem@gmail.com, providing the following information:

- Full name
- A brief curriculum vitae up to 5 lines long, including personal identity, if preferred, academic degree and current position.
- Phone contact details
- Draft article title that you intend to propose



- Give up to 15 lines presenting the idea you intend to develop.

Completion of registration is considered complete when the final version of the article has been sent to the e-mail addresses provided and a confirmatory reply has been received from CSEM.

Your article must be sent in two files, one with all the authors' data and ABBREVIATED_TITLE as its file name and the other with only ABBREVIATED_TITLE as the file name, where the authors' names and their profiles have been removed from the text to allow blind peer review. Please do not use accents or cedillas in filenames.

Note: the evaluation of the referees and the decision of the editors will only take place on the final text of the proposal and not on the pre-registered proposals!

Should you not receive the confirmation e-mail, you should check with CSEM using another contact (csem@csem.org.br and/or by calling us on telephone number 0055 61 98340 2326) to avoid exclusion from the selection process. If you need to negotiate deadlines or other issues related to the publication, please contact CSEM. We will not accept articles that have been submitted to other publications or that have previously been published in full or in part online. Individual cases may be discussed with the organizers and with CSEM Publishing.

5. ARTICLE FORMAT

This publication complies with the guidelines for the authors of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Human Mobility (REMHU), which are available on Scielo's website at the following link: <http://www.scielo.br/revistas/remhu/pinstruc.htm>. There is no need to send an abstract and title in a different language.

The articles must have a minimum of 10 pages in Word 1 or 4350 words or 30,000 characters with spaces, except for the bibliographical references.

6. EVALUATION OF SUBMITTED ARTICLES

By registering, interested authors accept the rules of this Call for Papers and will submit their articles for evaluation by a committee specifically appointed for this purpose. The evaluation process will consider:

- Consistency of the text with the topic of the question.
- A clear and objective writing style.
- Theoretical consistency.
- Critically analytical quality.

The author preliminarily agrees to adjust the text, if suggestions are received, to formalize its publication within the deadline established by this Call and also to read the text in its final version, if requested, and also to collaborate with the translation of the article to other languages, when possible.

The authors of the texts received which are not approved for publication will receive a notice from CSEM Publishers containing the referees' remarks.



6. TIME SCHEDULE

Step 1: Authors' pre-registration - **until 30/04/2025.**

Step 2: Submission of full texts - **until 30/07/2025.**

Step 3: Review by experts. Authors will be informed of the final decision regarding acceptance or non-acceptance of the submitted text. Accepted texts final version, with Spanish/Portuguese/English translation files, respectively - Until 30/11/2025

If there are insufficient articles submitted and found to be eligible for publication to fulfil the Series' editorial profile, the timeline may be adjusted to allow eventual texts from well-known authors to be invited to join the work.

7. PAYMENT TO AUTHORS AND COPYRIGHT

Cooperation in the production of the Ecumene Series books without charge.

By accepting an article for publication in the collection, authors assign their rights to CSEM, but authors are not forbidden from subsequently publishing it in another book or journal, as long as they make explicit and complete reference to the original publication in subsequent publications, including those in different languages. The agreement of cooperation and the transfer of publication rights shall be sent by CSEM to the authors successively for data collection and signature. Three (3) copies of the book will be given to the individual authors and two (2) copies of the Portuguese version of the volume will be given to each author in the case of co-authorship, provided that the volume is printed in at least one language.

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8. BOOK PROMOTION

The Ecumene Series of Theology and Human Mobility aims to address the shortage of publications dedicated to the theology of human mobility, particularly for religious/ecclisial leadership working in the academic, institutional or pastoral spheres. The series of publications are contributions to knowledge and advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees, with ecumenical and interreligious openness and dialogue, particularly within the Latin American context.

For these reasons, the books will be distributed free of charge in electronic format on the CSEM and CLAR websites, at partner institutions and during related events. The authors



undertake to promote the volumes, including taking part, at no cost to CSEM or CLAR, at events where they can present and recommend the publication.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information and questions, write to assessoria@csem.org.br.

Brasilia, October 31, 2024.