

Mission Research and Applied Scholarship (MRAS): A Research Project about Mission Research

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Challenges and Questions

- * What mission research themes are academic institutions around the world addressing?
- * What topics are being overly addressed, and what topics are being missed?
- * How is the sometimes erudite, “ivory tower” world of academic mission scholarship intersecting with mission research organizationally connected to practical, on-the-ground ministries of missionaries and mission agencies?

Project Background

- * Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS, Oxford, England)
- * Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture (ACI, Akropong, Ghana)
- * Not just a one-off ten-year project, but an ongoing platform

Project Summary

- * Achieve better understanding of the direction of mission research and applied scholarship
- * Achieve greater strategic intentionality and collaboration
- * Increase the research capacities of under-resourced parts of the worldwide church
- * Enable research that serves the church in mission, hence will include mission agencies, churches, and mission research centres (and academic institutions)

Problems/Opportunities Addressed

- * Imbalance in mission research capacity
- * Ignorance of mission research agenda
- * Lack of agreed strategic priorities
- * Lack of connectedness between researchers

Intended Project Outcomes

Longer term

- * Identify strengths and contributions of different players in mission research;
- * Increase ability of all parts of the global church to participate in quality mission research and scholarship;
- * Strategically prioritize mission research at regional and global levels;
- * Increase collaboration between leading scholars and research institutes

Short/Medium term

- * Participating institutions track their own research and scholarly output and compare with other institutions;
- * Evidenced-based understanding of current research foci and by whom;
- * Identification of potential research areas – gaps and priorities
- * Deeper understanding and appreciation for mission research concerns of others in the global church;
- * Strengthened relationships between institutions and individuals;
- * Publication/dissemination of key learnings for the wider world of Christian mission research and scholarship.

Four Development Phases

- * 1. Conception and Preparation (October 2017-March 2018)
- * 2. Building Core Alliance and Construction of Platform (April 2018-November 2018)
- * 3. Generalisation of Participation (January 2019-June 2019)
- * 4. Data Preparation and Consultation (July 2019 –November 2019)

Major Inputs Required

- * Vision and Engagement
- * People and Time
- * Facilities
- * Finance

Strategic Past Experience

- * OCMS
 - * Edinburgh Centenary Series – Regnum Press
- * ACI
- * Dr. Paul Bendor-Samuel
 - * Steering Group
 - * Core Alliance of Institutions and Agencies

Evaluation

- * Platform Beta-testing
- * Outcomes measured by November 2019 Consultation
- * Ongoing Evaluation by Platform Steering Group

Funding Strategy

- * Trusts/Foundation
- * Individuals

Discussion