



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

[www.vulnerablemission.org](http://www.vulnerablemission.org)

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin**

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Editor:

Jim Harries, PhD,

Chairman of the AVM



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		Stan Nussbaum

**The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.**

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**Call for Papers**

Contributions of papers are welcome for the following conference:

***Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability***

sponsored by the [Alliance for Vulnerable Mission](#), and [Trinity School for Ministry \(tsm.edu\)](#) in Ambridge, PA.

The conference will take place in Pennsylvania 8th to 11th November 2017. For more information go to [vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org) and click on the flier.

Papers accepted for the conference will also be considered for a special guest-edition of *Global Missiology*, January 2018, on the same theme.

Please submit title and abstract or your outline idea to Dr. Jim Harries at [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

*The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) believes that some missionaries to the non-West should engage using local languages and resources.*

23rd May 2017

- **A 'Manifesto' for Vulnerable Mission' ?**



**Professor Katrin Flikschuh** of the London School of Economics gives us our challenging reading for this month! This is in an article entitled: **'The Idea of Philosophical Fieldwork: Global Justice, Moral Ignorance, and Intellectual Attitudes.'**

Flikschuh draws on a specialisation in the study of the philosopher Kant to question the universality of much Western thinking, in intercultural perspective, especially with reference to Africa. Click [here](#) or paste this link in your browser: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jopp.12006/epdf>

Flikschuh advocates for “philosophical fieldwork,” which seems in some ways closely akin to *vulnerable mission*. The objective of such fieldwork is to not provide premature solutions to other people’s problems that one has yet to understand, but to engage in what she calls “peaceful contact.” Flikschuh distinguishes ‘peaceful contact’ from ‘friendship’. Friendship is, according to Flikschuh, an interested relationship. That is, one entered into on the understanding that it will include some kind of reciprocity of intimacy – as a result of which one will ‘feel at one’ with the people one is befriending. ‘Peaceful contact’ however is that maintained “despite lack of personal intimacy or intuitive understanding and in the absence of shared values” (12). We must not, in seeking relationship with ‘distant others’ assume that “interaction depends on value proximity” (13). That is, as I understand her, we should continue to seek for Christian relationship, even if we do not find encouraging value overlap between ourselves and the people we are seeking to understand and reach. Flikschuh contradicts the notion widely held by liberals, that their philosophy is universal or can simply be extended universally. Instead, she makes it clear that any philosophy is rooted in particular circumstances and so is necessarily parochial.

Of direct relevance, and drawing from African philosophers at the end of her article, Flikschuh informs us of an important distinction between *culture* and *tradition*. Contemporary researchers easily make the mistake of thinking in Africa that ‘what you see is what you get’. Yet in actuality, Flikschuh tells us, and I agree, many African traditions might be underground, but are very much alive. Failing to take account of this category of ‘hidden tradition’ throws much intercultural engagement off course. In other words, the impression we can get of fellow African scholars’ being on-board with modern philosophy can be a misleading veneer covering an actual depth of a tradition very unfamiliar to the contemporary West.

In line with a currently ongoing Western philosophical culture, Flikschuh makes no overt mention of God. The direction of her article however points incredibly strongly to the necessity of faith in God as the missing link that can make sense of her own philosophical underpinnings, rooted in centuries of devoted Christianity. (Belief in God is the tradition in the West that is ‘hidden’, but yet very real.) In other words, in terms of the missionary endeavour, what keeps the missionary going is not finding people ‘like himself’, but recognising that in the end apparent incommensurabilities are rendered communicable through the unifying factor of faith in one all-powerful creator, *Yhwh*.

- **Parachuting in courses from the West does African entrepreneurs no good**, according to *The Conversation*, Africa Edition, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

See [here](#).



- **3 quick ways to improve a "Short Term Missions" trip by Craig Greenfield.**

Got your t-shirts printed? Your passport up to date? Crowd-funding page all set? It's almost time to go! The Short-Term Mission season is almost upon us, and very soon swarms of teams will converge on poor communities around the world. They are ready to paint orphanages and hand out tracts in a language they don't understand. They are equipped with Malaria tablets and smart phones - and this summer, they're coming to a village near you. There's only one problem. The long-term benefit will be almost entirely for the team themselves. ... Read more [here](#).

- **UK Conference prospects.** We are beginning to put together provisional plans for a vulnerable mission conference to be held in UK, May/June 2018, at All Nations Christian College. We are looking for indications of the level of support we will have for such an event. Please let me know if this interests you: [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org).



# Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability

sponsored by the **Alliance for Vulnerable Mission** ([vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org))

Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, [www.tsm.edu](http://www.tsm.edu)

Wednesday 8th November 2017 registration at 5.00pm, finishing 12 noon on Saturday 11th November.

Cost: \$270.00 conference and meals. Bed and breakfast separate. Discounts available for those attending part-time and/or students.

**Speakers to include:** Jean Johnson, Director, World Mission Associates.  
Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.  
Rev. Canon Dr. John Macdonald, Trinity School for Ministry, PA.  
Dr. Jim Harries, Chair, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.  
Fred and Carol Lewis, Worldview, Portland, OR.  
Peter Sholl, Director, MOCLAM, Monterrey, México.



'Emphasising the use of indigenous languages and resources as the norm for some intercultural workers.'

We are looking for presenters of papers in other languages: Korean, Swahili, Spanish ...

Queries to: [allyson@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:allyson@vulnerablemission.org) or [jmacdonald@tsm.edu](mailto:jmacdonald@tsm.edu)

*(Details may still change. Registration open.)*



## Conference outline; **Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability**

To be held at Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pittsburgh, November 2017  
*(as of March 2017)*

Wednesday (8/11/2017)

17:00 Registration

19:00 Plenary paper 1. by Dr. Stan Nussbaum. Key note address.

Thursday (9/11/2017)

9.30 Plenary 2. by Jean Johnson.

11.45 Seminars 1

14.30 Panel of practitioners each commenting on their VM experience.

16.00 Seminars 2.

18.45 Plenary 3. by Dr. Jim Harries.

Friday (10/11/2017)

9.30 Plenary 4. To be decided.

11.45 seminars 3

14.30 Outing to old economy village in Ambridge. / Meeting to plan future activities of AVM/USA.

18.45 plenary 5. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lewis. The significance of Language-Learning and Worldview for Connecting with People.

20.15 Tea and discuss the conference so far in groups. Feedback.

Saturday (11/11/17)

9.30 Working groups.

10.15 Plenary. Summing up key points from the conference, by Dr. John Macdonald.

11.00 Wrapping up.

Conference ends at 12 noon.

**Provisional**