

RYAN K. BOLGER

EDUCATION

*Fuller Theological Seminary*

2003 Ph.D., School of World Mission (Intercultural Studies)

1999 M.A., School of Theology (Theology)

1999 M.A., School of World Mission (Cross-Cultural Studies)

*University of California, Davis*

1986 B.A., Linguistics

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Yale Center for Faith and Culture: Theological Education Renewal Award, Fall 2005

Pastoral Leadership Project Dissertation Fellowship/Duke Divinity School 2001-2002

Contextualization Award, Fuller Seminary, 2002

Donald A. McGavran Award, Fuller Seminary 2001

Graduate Online Course of the Year from ACCESS and Christianity Today, 1999

SEMINARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Fuller Theological Seminary (2002-2015)*

**Associate Professor**

Missiology as a Discipline (doctoral studies, with Dave Scott), Summer 2015

Practice of Mission (hybrid) Summer 2015

Church in an Age of Technology Spring 2015

Practice of Mission Spring 2015

Practice of Mission Winter 2015

Church in Mission (hybrid) Summer 2014

Missiological Research Theory and Methods (D.Miss) Fall 2013

Church in Mission (online) Spring 2013

Church in the Age of Facebook Spring 2013

Church in Mission (online) Winter 2013

Church Growth Church Planting Fall 2012

Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2012

Church in Mission (online) Spring 2012

Church in the Age of Facebook (Korean) Spring 2012

Organizational Research Theory and Methods (D.Miss) Winter 2012

Church Growth Church Planting Fall 2011

Church in Mission Summer 2011

Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2011

Church in the Age of Facebook (MA) Spring 2011

Church in the Age of Facebook (D.Min) Winter 2011

Cultural Research Theory and Methods (D.Miss) Winter 2011

Church in Mission Fall 2010

Church Growth/Church Planting Fall 2010

Church in Mission Fall 2009

Church Growth/Church Planting Fall 2009

Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2009

Church Growth/Church Planting Winter 2009

Transforming Contemporary Culture Winter 2009

Cultural Research Theory and Methods (D.Miss) Winter 2009

Church in Mission Fall 2008

Church in American Culture Fall 2008

**Mentor (2004-2015)**

Supervised sixty-nine writing projects, independent studies, and practica, at the MA level or ThM level

At the (D.Miss) doctoral level, mentored five doctoral students (and their ongoing tutorial and method work throughout their program).

At the (PhD) doctoral level, twenty-nine tutorials, seven methods

Served on eleven doctoral committees, and mentored nine doctoral students.

Mentored two D.Min. students

**Assistant Professor**

Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2008  
 Researching Churches and Cultures Winter 2008  
 Transforming Contemporary Culture Winter 2008  
 American Culture, Social Location, and the Gospel (with Mark Lau Branson) Fall 2007  
 Church and Mission Fall 2007  
 Evangelizing Nominal Christians Summer 2007  
 Theory and Methods of Cultural Research Summer 2007  
 Theory and Methods of Missional Church Summer 2007  
 Emerging Churches Spring 2007  
 Reimagining Church (with Doug Pagitt) (D.Min) Winter 2007  
 Church and Mission Winter 2007  
 Church Growth Fall 2006  
 Emerging Church (with Eddie Gibbs) Winter 2006  
 The Spirituality of U2, Spring 2006 (with Barry Taylor)  
 Jesus the Missionary, Spring 2006  
 Emerging Churches, Winter 2006 (with Eddie Gibbs)  
 Transforming Contemporary Culture, Fall 2005  
 Cross-Cultural Apologetics, Fall 2005  
 Mission Strategy, Summer 2005  
 Global Leadership: Implications, Spring 2005  
 Global Leadership: Implications, Winter 2005  
 Jesus the Missionary, Winter 2005 (with Wilbert Shenk)  
 Global Leadership: Implications, Fall 2004  
 Global Leadership in Context, Fall 2003  
 Global Leadership in Context, Summer 2004  
 Global Leadership in Context, Summer 2003  
 Developing Your Learning Plan, Summer 2003 (with Bob Freeman)  
 Developing Your Learning Plan, Spring 2003 (with Bob Freeman)  
 Global Leadership in Context, Spring 2003  
 Developing Your Learning Plan, Winter 2003 (with Bob Freeman)  
 Mission in Modern Culture, Fall 2002 (online)

**Instructor (2000-2002)**

Modern Culture and Evangelism, Spring 2002 (Seattle)  
 Emerging Church, Winter 2002 (with Mark Lau Branson).  
 Reshaping the Church for Mission, Summer 2001 (with Eddie Gibbs).  
 Thinking Missiologically, Fall 2000 (with Wilbert Shenk)

**Instructor/Web developer (1999-2003)**

Developing Your Learning Plan (Internet Course), Winter 2003 (with Bob Freeman)  
 Foundations of Church Growth (Internet course), Winter 2001.  
 Evangelizing Nominal Christians (Internet course), Fall 1999 (with Eddie Gibbs).

**PUBLICATIONS****Books**

*Gospel After Christendom: New Voices, New Cultures, New Expressions*, Ryan Bolger, ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House), 2012

*Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*, co-author Eddie Gibbs (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House), 2005.

**Books in Process**

"The Church in the Age of Facebook", a 75,000 word manuscript due to Baker books due Fall 2015. This book addresses the challenges churches face in a time of rapid technological change. Stories of churches in participatory culture will be combined with missiological analysis. At this point, I am in the midst of the research task.

### **Chapters and Articles**

"Following Jesus in the Network Society: Faithful Living in a World Mediated by Technology" in *The Missional Church and the First Third of Life*, ed. Terri Elton. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, **forthcoming**).

"Evangelicals on a Journey to Emergence: What to Take, What to Leave Behind," in *Phyllis Tickle: Evangelist of the Future*, ed. Tony Jones (Brewster, Mass: Paraclete Press, 2013).

Bolger, R., & Landres, J. "Emergent Religion," in *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*, ed. M. Juergensmeyer, & W. Roof, pp. 340-42 (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2012).

"Emerging Churches within Denominational Structures," *Theology News and Notes*, Fall 2008, Fuller Theological Seminary, co-edited entire issue with Eddie Gibbs.

"Communion and the Emerging Church in the US," in *Mass Culture*, ed. Pete Ward, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Bible Reading Fellowship, 2008).

"Contemporary Perspectives on Worship: Emerging Forms of Worship in the US and UK," in *Worship that Changes Lives* ed. Alexis Abernethy (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008).

"Practice Movements In Global Information Culture: Looking Back to McGavran and Finding a Way Forward," *Missiology* 35, no. 2 (2007): 181-93.

"Following Jesus into Culture, Emerging Church as Social Movement," in *An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, eds. Doug Pagitt and Tony Jones (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007).

Landres, J. Shawn and Bolger, Ryan K. "Emerging Patterns of Interreligious Conversation," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 612, no. 1 (2007): . 225-39

With Eddie Gibbs, "Postmodern Forms of the Church," in *Evangelical, Ecumenical, and Anabaptist Missiologies in Conversation: Essays in Honor of Wilbert R. Shenk*, eds James Krabill, Walter Sawatsky, and Charles Van Engen (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2006).

"The Local Church in Mission: Becoming a Missional Congregation in the Twenty-First Century Global Context," editor, Track 10A, *Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization*, Pattaya, Thailand, Sept. 29–Oct. 6, 2004.

"The Evangelical Strategy of MTV," *Strategies for Today's Leader*, fourth quarter, 38, no. 4 (2001).

"Dwelling, Distinctiveness, and Dialogue: The Missiological Triad of John Howard Yoder," *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, 1998, Volume 6.

### **Dissertation**

"Jesus For and Against Modernity: Practice-Redemption as Missiological Response to the Rules of the Modern Powers," Fuller Seminary, 2003. Mentor: Wilbert R. Shenk Committee Members: William Dyrness, Eddie Gibbs.

### **Popular Writing**

"Ways Forward for Western Evangelicals," *Fuller Magazine*, Issue # 2, 2015, <http://fullermag.com/ways-forward-western-evangelicals/>

Landres, J.S., and R.K. Bolger. 2007. "Evangelical-Jewish Dialogue: The Emerging Conversation." *Sh'ma* 37/638 (May), 11.

Landres, J.S., and R.K. Bolger. 2006. *Objevující se duchovní paradigmaty, DINGIR*, [Emerging spiritual paradigms] (in Czech).

"Lesslie Newbigin and the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", Nov. 6, 2006  
<http://www.24-7prayer.com/cm/articles/784>

"Why Emerging Churches are Nonviolent", in *Next Wave* February 2006.

<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue86/index.cfm?id=9&ref=ARTICLES%5FEMERGING%20CHURCH%5F156> .

"Please No More Doing Church for Them", in *Next Wave* November 2005.

<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue83/index.cfm?id=6&ref=ARTICLES%5FMISSIONAL%5F92> .

"Brian McLaren is the Real Thing" in *Next Wave*, September 2005.

<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue81/index.cfm?id=4&ref=ARTICLES%5FEMERGING%20CHURCH%5F53> .

"On Emergent", in *Next Wave*, in August 2005.

<http://www.the-next-wave-ezine.info/issue85/index.cfm?id=8&ref=ARTICLES%5FTHE%20BEST%20OF%202005%5F135>

## PRESENTATIONS

### *Academic*

"*The Virtual Ekklesia (or iKlesia?): Living faithfully as the church in a mediated world*," University of Tulsa, Welch Lectures, Tulsa OK, February 9, 2015

"Christ-followers in the Network Society: Loving the Other in Mediated Contexts." Biola.Digital Conference June 6, 2013

"Ecclesiology, Ethnography, And Missiology In The Network Society: Following Jesus In A World Mediated By Technology," May 14, 2013, Ecclesiology and Ethnography annual meeting, Luther Seminary.

Plenary Speaker at the *Annual Brehm Lectures*, held Oct. 31, 2012 in Pasadena, CA, I presented "Following Jesus into the Network Society"

Respondent to Soong Chan-Rah, Fuller SIS Annual Missiology Lectures, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Plenary Speaker at the *Association of Theological Schools Presidential Leadership Intensive Week*, held Dec. 8, 2011 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I presented "Where is Technology Taking Us?"

Plenary Speaker at the *The Seventh Annual Consultation on the Missional Church*, at Luther Seminary, Nov. 4-5, 2011. I presented "Following Jesus in Contemporary Culture, Faithful Living in a World Mediated by Technology."

Plenary speaker at *Central Baptist Seminary's Spring Conference* (April 11 and 12, 2010), "The Church in a Virtual Age: A Conference on Technology and Ministry." I presented three lectures, "Following God in a Facebook Age", "Being the Church in a Virtual Age", and "Living in a Participatory Culture".

Plenary Speaker at the *Association of Theological Schools Presidential Leadership Intensive Week*, held Dec. 7-11, 2008 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I presented "The Church in Participatory Culture: Implications for Seminaries".

"Emerging Church and the Future of the Seminary," *ATS SPAN Conference*, Orlando, 2008.

"How (Not) to Speak of the Church: An *Emerging/Emergent* Ecclesiological Conversation in a Postmodern World", with Veli-Matti Karkkainen and Peter Rollins, at the Yale conference on *Ecclesiology & Ethnography: Exploring the Emerging Conversation Between Theology & Congregational Studies*, Sept.27-29, 2007.

"A Missional Theology for Evangelical Seminaries – A Discussion Paper," with Mark Lau Branson, *Allelon Missional Schools Project*, Dallas, Feb 21-23, 2007.

"Transitions in Church Growth: Towards a Postmodern Church Growth Paradigm," paper, *American Society of Church Growth Annual Meeting* (2006).

"A History of Emerging Churches", paper, *S3K/Emergent Dialog*, hosted by Synagogue 3000, Stephen M. Cohen (Hebrew Union College) and Wade Clark Roof (UCSB), co-presenters; January 16, 2006.

"Donald McGavran and the Emerging Church," Paper, *American Society of Church Growth, Annual Meeting* (2004).

"Making the Transition: The English Church In Postmodernity", Paper, *Association for the Sociology of Religion, Annual Meeting* (2001).

Attended AAR, Chicago, San Francisco, November 2008, 2011.

### ***Popular Speaking***

"Fake it til you make it — living as God's people when you haven't a clue how to go forward" (Act 2:42-47) February 8, 2015, guest preacher at First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa OK, 9am and 11am (Stephenson Hall)

"The American Mission Field" February 8, 2015, Fireside Conversation with Dr. Scott Sunquist, First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa OK

Guest Speaker at Monthly Musings at Monte Vista Grove Retirement Home, April 3, 2014. Spoke on "Trends in The American Church since the 1960s: Mainlines, Megachurches, Monastics, and The Mediated Ones..."

Plenary Speaker at San Diego Presbytery Leadership Day, January 26, 2013. Two lectures given "Gospel after Christendom" and "Church in the Age of Facebook".

Plenary Speaker, "The Missional Church in Postmodern Culture" at Santa Barbara Mission Conference. The theme of the conference was the Missional Church, January 16, 2010.

*Beyond e-vandalism*, response to Pete Rollins, Hollywood SDA, March 2, 2009

Co-hosted "Theology Pub", with Nadia Bolz-Weber, AAR, November 2008.

Fuller Alumnae Covenant Group, "The Church and Web 2.0", October 25, 2008

Fuller Rabbi-Pastor dialogue at Leo Baeck Temple, June 6, 2007.

Congregational Transformation class (for Rabbinic students), University of Judaism, May 1, 2007.

Northwest LA Vineyard Area Pastors meeting, Jan. 24, 2007

Faith Forward – Crystal Cathedral. Jan. 23, 2007

blah! Tour, July 14-18 2006.

CMS Annual Retreat, July 19, 2006.

Alt. Worship Retreat, July 20-21, 2006.

"Modernity and Christendom, "National Pastor's Convention, February 20-21, 2006.

Guest lecture, APU, Dec. 9, 2005.

College Briefing, Forest Home, Sept 2, 2005..

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Allelon Mission to Western Culture Project/Thinktank (2006).

Missional Seminary project with Allelon (2007-2008).

Board of Reference of "A Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future", Spring 2006.

### **SEMINARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

#### ***Committee Work***

Integrative Studies Curricular Chair, Spring, Summer 2015

Faculty Senate (2006-2008, Spring 2014, May-June 2015)

Church Planting Task Force (2011-2014)

Faculty Technology Group (2008-2014)

SIS Faculty Development sub-committee (2008-2014)

Educational Model Task Force (2012-2013)

SIS Program Review (2011-2013)

Masters Program Committee (2009-2012)

SIS Division Chair (2009-2012)

HSR committee for the PhD program, (2011-2012)

Department Review Process (2011-2012) with Mignon Jacobs and all other division chairs

Academic Restructuring Committee (and ART II), (Sp-Su 2009)

Senate Subcommittee responsible for academic courses and programs (2007-2008).

Chair of the MA committee (2006-2008).

MA committee (2003-2008).

Brehm Center Institute for the Study of the Emerging Church (2003-2013).

SIS faculty meeting (2002-2012).

Joint Faculty meeting (2002-2013).

Arthur Vining Davis classroom technology working group (2006-2007).

Academic integrity group in Spring 2006.  
 SIS Assessment committee (2005-2006).  
 "Taking Fuller to the World", a three year DVD project (2004-2006).  
 Flag committee task force (2004-2005).  
 Horner Center's Director's team (2002-2005).  
 Academic Director of the MAGL (2002-2005).  
 MAGL committee (2002-2005).  
 Restaurant Theology Group (2002-2005).

### *Occasional Service*

Lead Instructor, IS Training Workshop, August 31-September 25, 2015  
 Course Designer and Lead Instructor, IS Training Workshop, a 4wk, 40 hour course for Fuller Professors, June 15-July 12, 2015  
 Military chaplaincy task force for three months, Jan-Mar 2011.  
 Faculty sponsor of Fuller Creation Stewards, a student group committed to living green and caring for creation, 2011.  
 Discussion with Sherwood Lingenfelter and various faculty regarding vision, October 2007.  
 iTunes U Executive Seminar Jan. 11, 2007.  
 SWOT/Context Analysis for Provost's Council, Jan. 9, 2007  
 ATS Technology and Education conference, August 2004.

### *Speaking Engagements -- Fuller*

"Welcome to Fuller" panel for Spring 2015 new student orientation , March 27, 2015  
 "Comments" a talk to honor graduates at doctoral breakfast, June 12, 2014  
 "A night to honor Phyllis Tickle", March 6, 2014, 101 Payton.  
 "Pastoral Care through Technology" to Fuller Chaplains, May 7, 2013.  
 Scripture reader and Prayer leader, Fuller Chapel service, October 31, 2012  
 "A second night to honor Eddie Gibbs", October 9, 2012, co-convenor of Eddie Gibbs retirement party, University Club.  
 "A night to honor Eddie Gibbs", April 20, 2011, co-convenor of Eddie Gibbs retirement party, University Club.  
 Fuller Desert Forum, "Following God in a Facebook Age", Palm Springs, March 19, 2010  
 "Micah 6:8," Fuller Chapel, May 16, 2007.  
 "Emerging Church and Youth Ministry," CYFM , January 9, 2007.  
 "Future of the Seminary", at Fuller Charette, April 2006  
 Dean's Advisory Council, December 2006  
 To Donors, New Year's Day, Jan 2, 2006.  
 Dean's Advisory Council, 2005  
 Fuller Board of Trustees, Sept. 13, 2005.  
 Connect conference for Extension Leaders, Summer 2005  
 Extension Directors Seminar, Spring 2005  
 Alumni gathering , Seattle, Winter 2005.

Lecturer, *Church in Post-Christendom*, MI804C, Amos Yong, Feb. 18, 2015  
 Lecturer and panel respondent, "Gospel After Christendom", in Oscar Garcia-Johnson's Theology course, January 23, 2013.  
 Guest lecturer for Foundations class -- Mark Lau Branson and Dick Peace/Kurt Fredrickson (several times)  
 Annual lecturer for Nancey Murphy (three times).  
 "New forms of Emerging Worship" for Clay Schmidt's worship course, November 23, 2011.  
 Guest lecturer for Bobby Clinton  
 Guest lecturer for William Dryness  
 Guest lecturer for Bob Freeman  
 Guest lecturer for Eddie Gibbs (a few times)  
 Guest lecturer for Ron Hannaford  
 Guest lecturer for Mark Hopkins (twice)  
 Guest lecturer for Veli-Matti Karkkainen (twice)  
 Guest lecturer for Roberta King  
 Guest lecturer for Alan Roxburgh/Mark Lau Branson, Doctor of Ministry program. Guest lecturer for Wilbert Shenk (at least ten times)  
 Guest lecturer for Chuck Van Engen

**FAITH IN PRACTICE**

Consultant to OC Register article on Asian-American Churches, Jim Hinch author, December 13, 2012  
 Spoke on Emerging Churches on the show Top3, JCTV, TBN, Dec. 12, 2008.  
 Weekend Today Show March 4, 2007, brief in-studio TV interview on emerging churches.  
 Featured in an ABC TV documentary, "Changing Face of Worship" which aired in December 14, 2003.  
 Southern California Public Radio, March 2, 2006, "Airtalk with Larry Mantle"  
 Southern California Public Radio. March 2003 "Talk of the Town" with Kitty Felde.  
 Washington Post, April 4, 2006, quoted in "Blackboard Blogging"  
 Los Angeles Times (twice)  
 Associated Press (October 2005)

Served on core leadership team, church plant, "The Table", Altadena, 2014-2015.  
 Served as a co-leader of the Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Altadena Church (2006-2012).  
 Served as elder at First Presbyterian Altadena (2011-2012).

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Missiology  
 Faith and Technology  
 Pedagogy  
 Cultural Studies  
 Emerging Churches