



Dr. Larry Poston**2010 Arts and Sciences Scholar of the Year**

Professor of Religion
Chair, Department of Religion

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Education

Ph.D. Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
M.A. Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
M.A. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois
B.A. Grace College of the Bible, Omaha, Nebraska

Areas of Specialization/Expertise

Comparative Religious Studies
Islam
Missiology

Current Areas of Research

Revivalism
Islam in the West

Courses Taught

World Religions
Psychology and Sociology of Religion
Islam
New Age and Occult Religion
The History of Judaism
South Asian Religions
East Asian Religions
Islam in the West
Catholicism and Orthodoxy
The History of Christianity

Alternative Religious Movements in America
Religious Studies Capstone
Foundations for Excellence
The Encounter of Christianity with the Religions

Membership in Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion
Evangelical Theological Society
Evangelical Missiological Society

Publications & Presentations

Books

Poston, Larry with Carl F. Ellis, Jr. *The Changing Face of Islam in America* (Camp Hill, PA: Horizon Books, 2000).

Poston, Larry. *Islamic Da'wah in the West: Muslim Missionary Activity and the Dynamics of Conversion to Islam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).

Articles and Chapters

Poston, Larry. "Sociological Pluralism Versus Theological Pluralism: Evaluating 'A Common Word,'" *Occasional Bulletin of the Evangelical Missiological Society*, v. 23, no. 3 (Fall 2010). (Available online at <http://www.emsweb.org/images/stories/docs/bulletins/OBFall2010.pdf>)

Poston, Larry and Lindsey Disney. "The Breath of Life: Christian Perspectives on Conception and Ensoulment," in *The Anglican Theological Review*, v. 92, no. 2 (Spring 2010).

Poston, Larry. "The Second Coming of 'Isa: an Exploration of Islamic Premillennialism," in *The Muslim World*, v. 100, no. 1 (January 2010).

Poston, Larry. "Evaluating 'A Common Word: The Problems of Points of Contact," in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (January 2010).

Poston, Larry and Lindsey Disney. "When Does Human Life Begin? Conception and Ensoulment," in *Christian Ethics Today*, 15:3 (Fall 2009).

Poston, Larry. "Evangelical Poverty," "Robert Jaffray," "Simon Kimbangu," "Hendrik Kraemer," "Old Catholics," "John Paton," "Unitarianism," in *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, ed. George Kurian (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2009).

Poston, Larry. "Re-Thinking 'Career Missions' in Light of Paul the 'Short-Term Missionary,'" in *Global Missiology* 3 (October 2008). (www.globalmissiology.org)

Poston, Larry. "Islam and the Christian Doctrine of the Trinity" (Islam ve Hıristiyanlık'in Üçlü Birlik Öğretisi), in *E-manet* (Sayı 14, Nisan-Haziran 2008).

Poston, Larry. "'A Common Word?' Reflections on Christian-Muslim Dialogue," in *Global Missiology* 3 (April 2008). (www.globalmissiology.org)

Poston, Larry. "Christ and Culture (Mesih ve Kültür)," in *E-Manet* (Sayı 13, Winter 2008).

Poston, Larry. "Missionary Imperialism? ('Emperyalist' Misyonerlik?)," in *E-Manet* (Sayı 10, Mart 2007).

Poston, Larry. "You Must Not Worship in Their Way: When Contextualization Becomes Syncretism," in *Contextualization and Syncretism: Navigating Cultural Currents*, edited by Gailyn Van Rheenen (William Carey Library, 2006). Also published in *E-Manet* (Sayi 9-10, Nisan-Haziran 2006).

Poston, Larry. "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men? The Rituals of Warfare in Judaism, Christianity and Islam," in *Proteus: A Journal of Ideas* (Volume 23, No. 2, Fall 2006).

Poston, Larry. "Interfacing with 'The Next Christendom,'" in *Occasional Bulletin of the Evangelical Missiological Society* (Vol. 18, No. 3, Fall 2005).

Poston, Larry. "Evangelicals and the Comparative Study of Religion," in *The Comity and Grace of Method: Essays in Honor of Edmund Perry*, edited by Thomas Ryba, George Bond, and Herman Tull (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2004).

Poston, Larry. "[Sexuality in] Islam," in *Religion and Sex*, edited by Phil Zuckerman and Christel Manning (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2005).

Poston, Larry. "Femininity Versus Feminism: Contemporary Islamic Perspectives on the Essence of Womanhood," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* (Fall 2001).

Poston, Larry. "The Current State of Islam in America," in *The Gospel for Islam: Reaching Muslims in North America*, edited by Roy Oksnevad and Dotsey Welliver (Wheaton, IL: EMIS/Billy Graham Center, 2001).

Poston, Larry. "Caring for the Coming Anarchy," in *Caring for the Harvest Force in the New Millennium*, edited by Tom A. Steffen and F. Douglas Pennoyer (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2001).

Poston, Larry. "Cultural Chameleon," *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (October 2000). Also published in Jim Lo and Boyd Johnson (eds.), *Intercultural Ministry: Readings on a Global Task* (Indianapolis, IN: Precedent Press, 2006).

Poston, Larry. "The Divine Attributes of God and Mission," "William Henry Temple Gairdner," "Ignatius of Loyola," "Henry Harris Jessup," "Raymond Lull," "John Coleridge Patteson," "The Qur'an," "Christian and Missionary Alliance Missions," in *The Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions*, ed. A. Scott Moreau et. al. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2000).

Poston, Larry. "Islam as 'The Middle Path,'" *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* (Spring 2000).

Poston, Larry. "American *Ijtihad*: The Influence of Western Converts Upon Contemporary Islamic Theology and Praxis," in *Towards a New Understanding of Conversion*, edited by Ulf Gorman (*Religio* 50, 1999).

Poston, Larry. "The Future of Da'wah in North America" (Revised and Updated), in Amber Haque, ed., *Muslims and Islamization in North America: Problems and Prospects* (Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 1999).

Poston, Larry. "The Role of Higher Education in the Christian World Mission: Past, Present, and Future," in Edgar J. Elliston, ed., *Teaching Them Obedience in All Things: Equipping for the 21st Century* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999). Reprinted in *The Alliance Academic Review* (1999).

Poston, Larry. "Christian Reconstructionism and the Christian World Mission," *Missiology: An International Review* (October 1995).

Poston, Larry. "Christianity as a Minority Religion," in *Christianity and the Religions: A Biblical Theology of World Religions*, edited by Edward Rommen and Harold Netland (Pasadena: William Carey Library Press, 1995). Reprinted in *The Alliance Academic Review* (1995).

Poston, Larry. "The Educational Philosophy of Ignatius of Loyola: A Reply to James Davison Hunter," *Faculty Dialogue* (Fall 1994).

Poston, Larry. "When 'Zero' Doesn't Mean Zero," *Alliance Life* (September 29, 1993).

Poston, Larry. "Should the West Stop Sending Missionaries?" *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (January 1992). Reprinted in *In-formatie*, published by the Evangelische Zendingen Alliantie, August 1993.

Poston, Larry. "The Future of Da'wah in North America," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* (December 1991).

Poston, Larry. "Banishing Boredom," *Alliance Life* (May 22, 1991).

Poston, Larry. "Becoming a Muslim in the Christian West: A Profile of Conversion to a Minority Religion," *Journal Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs* (January 1991).

Poston, Larry. "Da'wah in the West," in *The Muslims of America*, ed. Yvonne Haddad (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991).

Poston, Larry. "The Adult Gospel," *Christianity Today* (August 20, 1990). Also posted on ChristianityToday.com at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/100/32.0.html> (01/09/2002).

Poston, Larry. "Lessons from the Leesburg Manor Apartments," *Moody Monthly* (September 1989). Reprinted in *Family Forum*, published by WordAction Publishing Company, November 1991.

Poston, Larry. "Sweden's Sterile Official Church Life Masks Many Signs of Spiritual Vitality," *Europe Pulse* (January 1984).

Book Reviews

Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road. By Johan Elverskog. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010. Reviewed in *Missiology* (January 2011).

The Shack. By William P. Young. Los Angeles, CA: Windblown Media, 2007. Reviewed in *Christian Scholars Review* (July 2009).

God's Rivals: Why Has God Allowed Different Religions? By Gerald R. McDermott. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. Reviewed in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (October 2007).

Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness. Edited by Lois Y. Barrett, et.al. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004. Reviewed in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (January 2006).

Christianity Reborn: The Global Expansion of Evangelicalism in the Twentieth Century. Edited by Donald M. Lewis. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004. Reviewed in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (January 2005).

No God But God: A Path to Muslim-Christian Dialogue on God's Nature. By A. Christian van Gorder. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2003. Reviewed in *Missiology* (April 2004).

The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity. By Philip Jenkins. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2002. Reviewed in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* (October 2002).

The Decline of Eastern Christianity Under Islam: From Jihad to Dhimmitude, Seventh-Twentieth Century. By Bat Ye'or. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1996. Reviewed in *Christian Scholars Review* (Spring 1998).

Global Gods: Exploring the Role of Religions in Modern Societies. By David W. Shenk. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1995. Reviewed in *The International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (April 1997).

Islam and the West: The Making of an Image. By Norman Daniel. Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 1993. Reviewed in *The Journal of Church and State* (Summer 1995).

Majesty and Meekness: A Comparative Study of Contrast and Harmony in the Concept of God. By John Carman. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994. Reviewed in *The International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (July 1995).

Papers and Presentations

"With Liberty and Justice for All: Paul's Letter to the Galatians," presented at the Spring Retreat of the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, Prattsville, New York, 27-29 May, 2011.

Poston, Larry and Linda Poston. "The Word and Words in the Abrahamic Faiths," presented at the conference "Research Frontiers in Information and Religion," sponsored by the Center for the Study of Information and Religion and held at Kent State University, Kent, OH, 20 May 2011.

Poston, Larry and Audrey Watne, "The Hand of Tender Terribleness: Wounding in Order to Heal," presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the Evangelical Theological Society, held at Bethel Seminary of the East, Auburn, MA, 9 April 2011.

"'Let Those in the City Get Out': Making a Way of Escape," presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT, 19 March 2011.

Poston, Larry and Elizabeth Rigotti, "Christian Fiction: Innovative Contextualization or Trojan Horse for Heresy?" presented at the Nyack Scholars Symposium held at Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 6 October 2010.

"Post-Office Discipleship: 1 and 2 Thessalonians," presented at the Spring Retreat of the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, Prattsville, New York, 28-30 May, 2010.

Poston, Larry and Elizabeth Rigotti, "Concerning Lions, Witches and Wardrobes: Is Religious Fiction Replacing Scripture in the Minds of the Masses?" presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Eastern Region, held at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, 8 May 2010.

"Ecclesiastes," presented at the Spring Retreat of the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, Prattsville, New York, 22-24 May, 2009.

"'All Peoples Will Be Blessed...': The Four Phases of the Heilsgeschichte," presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the Evangelical Theological Society, held at Nyack College, Nyack, NY 21 March 2009.

"The Task Ahead: Questions of Partnership, Motivation, and Access," presented at *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, held at the First Alliance Church of Manhattan, 14 March 2009.

"Shrewd as a Snake, Innocent as a Dove: The Ethics of Missionary Dissimulation and Subterfuge," presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT, 21 February 2009.

Poston, Larry and Lindsey Disney, "The Breath of Life: Historical Christian Perspectives on Conception and Ensoulment," presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society held in Providence, Rhode Island, 20 November 2008.

Poston, Larry and Lindsey Disney, "Life (Or Something Like It): Religious Perspectives on Conception, Ensoulment, and Childbirth," presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Eastern Region, held at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 3 May 2008.

"Re-thinking 'Career Missions' in Light of Paul the 'Short-Term Missionary,'" presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 27-29 September 2007. Also presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT, 14 April 2007.

"In a Day of 'Mooks' and 'Midriffs,' What's the Point of Being an 'Intellectual?'" presented at the annual meeting of the Nyack College Society of Alpha Chi, 3 April 2007.

"Pornography: A Biblical and Theological View," presented at a lecture series sponsored by the Nyack College Counseling Center, held at Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 28 February 2006.

"The Sovereignty of God in the Old Testament," presented at the Bailey Library Current Issue Series entitled "September 11th, Tsunamis, and Suffering: Where is God?", held at Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 14 April 2005.

"'You Must Not Worship in Their Way': When Contextualization Becomes Syncretism," presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Airport Marriott, St. Louis, Missouri, 23-25 September 2004.

"The Four Phases of God's Missionary Program," presented at the Spring Retreat of the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, Prattsville, New York, 21-23 May, 2004.

"Warfare in the Bible," presented at the Bailey Library Current Issue Series, held at Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 23 March 2004.

"The Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist Worldviews," presented at Long Hill Chapel, Chatham, New Jersey, September-October 2003.

"A Seminar on Islam," presented at the Spring Retreat of the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, Prattsville, New York, 23-25 May, 2003.

"Three to One and Rising: Implications of the Ratio of Women to Men in Today's Churches," presented at the conference *The Roles of Women in the Church Today*, sponsored by the Northeastern Region of the Evangelical Theological Society and held at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, MA, 15 March 2003.

"The Myth of 'Points of Contact,'" presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, held at the Regal Constellation Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 20-22 November 2002.

"Islamic Culture and Values," presented at the Nyack College Faculty Retreat, held at the Stony Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Stony Point, New York, 20 August 2002.

"Pax Islamica: The Other Side of the Coin," presented at the conference *Terror, Islam and War*, sponsored by the Northeastern Region of the Evangelical Theological Society and held at Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 16 March 2002.

"The Four Phases of God's Missionary Program," presented at the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Africa Inland Mission, held in Pearl River, New York, 13 March 2002.

"The Male Leadership/Headship Position," presented at the Bailey Library Current Issue Series, held at Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 4 March 2002.

"A Commentary on Islam and the Events of September 11," posted at <http://struckmute.tripod.com/writing/Commentary/Islam.html> (October 2001).

"Telling the Truth: Will the Real Source of Revelation Please Stand Up?" presented at the 10th Annual Wheaton Theology Conference, held at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, 4-7 April 2001.

"Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men?' The Rituals of Warfare in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, held at Ithaca College, 30-31 March 2001.

"Missions in the Coming Anarchy: Preparing for a World Without Democracy," presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, 15-17 November 2000.

"Evangelicals and Islam: A Call for Balance," presented at the annual meeting of Jesus for Muslims, sponsored by Pascack Bible Church, Hillsdale, NJ, 25 September 1999.

"Becoming 'All Things to All People': Contextualization from a Pauline Perspective," presented at the conference *Christian Scholarship in the Light of Scripture: Hermeneutical Issues*, sponsored by Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario, 7-10 July 1999.

"Strangers in a Strange Land: Dhimmitude and Muslim Minoritarianism," presented at the conference *Islam in America 1999*, sponsored by the Islamic Society of North America and held at the Fawcett Center, Ohio State University, 2-4 July 1999.

"Islam in America," presented at the *Summer Institute on the History of the United States: Religion in America*, co-sponsored by the Multinational Institute of American Studies, New York University, the United States Information Agency and the Fulbright Commission, 22 July 1998 and 21 July 1999.

"Alternative Religious Movements in America: Dealing With Pluralism at the Level of the Street," presented at the Spring Retreat of the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, Prattsville, New York, 21-23 May, 1999.

"Islamic Da'wah and Christian Evangelicalism: The Problems and Prospects of Mutual Exclusivity," presented at the conference *Islam in America 1998*, sponsored by the Islamic Society of North America and held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago, IL, 3-5 July 1998.

"The Role of Higher Education in the Christian World Mission: The Challenge of the Future," presented at the conference *Revolutionizing Missions in the 21st Century: The Changing Relationship Between Churches, Agencies, Schools and Mobilizers*, Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society at Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, PA, 3 April 1998.

"Adherents of the Non-Christian Religions: The Final Frontier of Missions," presented at the Korean Pastor and Leadership Conference sponsored by Nyack College, Nyack, New York, 3-4 November 1997.

"American Ijtihad: The Influence of Western Converts Upon Contemporary Islamic Theology and Praxis," presented at the conference *Conversion* sponsored by the University of Lund, Sweden and held at Akerbergs Stiftgård, Höör, Sweden, 3-4 October 1997.

"Renewers of the Faith: Al-Suyuti and the Mujaddidun," presented at the conference *Appropriating and Re-Appropriating the Past: Historiography and Historiography in Islamic and Judaic Traditions* sponsored by the Center for Islamic and Judaic Studies and held at the University of Denver, 20-22 October 1996.

"'Ships That Pass in the Night': The Dynamics of Democratization and Restoration in Contemporary Judaism and Islam," presented at the conference *Charting the Horizons: Islamic and Judaic Values and Traditions In Dialogue, Contact, and Contrast* sponsored by the Center for Islamic and Judaic Studies and held at the University of Denver, 5-6 November 1995.

"External-Institutional Versus Internal-Personal: Paradigms for Approaching Allah," presented at the conference *Islam in America* sponsored by DePaul University and the American Islamic College and held at DePaul University, 29 September - 1 October 1995.

"Christianity as a Minority Religion," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society, held at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton in Lisle, Illinois, 17-19 November 1994.

"Femininity Versus Feminism: Contemporary Islamic Perspectives on the Essence of Womanhood," presented at the conference *Women, Families, and Children in Islamic and Judaic Traditions* sponsored by The Center for Islamic and Judaic Studies and held at the University of Denver, 23-25 October 1994.

"Islamic Da'wah: Offensive Strategy or Defensive Posture?" presented at the *Consultation on Christian-Muslim Relations and African Islam in Global Context* sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and held at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Essex, Colchester, England, 4-7 January 1994.

"Relating to the Adherents of Non-Christian Religions," presented at the conference *Strategies for Engaging the Church* sponsored by World Relief Corporation; held in Fort Worth, Texas, 6-10 November 1993.

"Islam as 'The Middle Path,'" presented at the conference *Muslims and Jews in North America: Past, Present and Future* sponsored by The Center for Islamic and Judaic Studies and held at the University of Denver, 24-26 October 1993.

"Workshop on Religion and Theology" and "North American Islamic Communities," presented at the conference *The Muslim World in the Christian Classroom* held at the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities' Dellenback Center in Washington, D.C., 11-16 June 1991.

"Becoming a Muslim in the Christian West: A Profile of Conversion to a Minority Religion," presented at the *International Conference on Muslim Minority/Majority Relations* held at the City College of New York, 24-26 October 1989.

"Da'wah in the West," presented at the conference *The Muslims of America*, held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 15-16 April 1988.