SR 953-12 Research for the 21st Century

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**Assignment #4 – Essay**

Continuation of the SR953 Research for 21st Century paper that you began for Assignment #2.

1. Write a summary for each of your resources (see Assignment #2 instructions for specifications). Use a Level 1 heading at the beginning of each summary. Level 2 and Level 3 headings are optional.

a. Include the following for each book from Assignment #2 (A minimum of two books (minimum of one published in the last five years) relevant to your chosen topic.)

• a short biography of the author and his or her credentials, and

• your assessment of each book’s (a) readability, (b) presentation of the subject, and (c) relevance to your chosen topic.

b. Include the following for each journal article from Assignment #2 (A minimum of five primary research journal articles relevant to your chosen topic; four articles must be less than five years old.)

• the title, year, and author(s) of the research;

• the basic categories in the literature review section;

• a brief description of the research type and methods;

• a brief description of the population being studied and how the participants were selected for the research; and

• a brief description of the findings and conclusions.

**Book Reviews**

**Ward, G. (2005). Cultural transformation and religious practice. Cambridge University Press.**

Graham Ward is an English theologian and Anglican priest who has been Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford since 2012. He was formerly the Samuel Ferguson Professor of Philosophical Theology and Ethics and the Head of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures at the University of Manchester. Before that he was the Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics and Senior Fellow in Religion and Gender at the university.

This book is very readable and lays out the subject matter in a logical order which flows smoothly. The subject matter of this book gives great insight into the chosen topic for this paper. The book shows how cultures change and the role theology plays in cultural transformation.

**Walker-Said, C. (2022). Faith, power and family: Christianity and social change in French Cameroon.  Boydell and Brewer, Limited.**

Charlotte Walker-Said is a historian of modern Africa and Associate Professor of African Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY). She completed her PhD in History at Yale University in December 2009 and has taught history, African studies, and human rights at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, and Webster University. Her research has been funded by the Fulbright Program, the Social Science Research Council, the American Association of University Women, the American Philosophical Society, the American Historical Association, the CUNY Research Foundation, and the CUNY Black, Race and Ethnic Studies Initiative Council. Her current book project examines policing and security in colonial and post-colonial Chad and Central Africa.

This book was an enjoyable read as it related stories and talked about places that I have visited during several trips to Cameroon. A better understanding of the cultural changes Christianity brought was gained by reading this book. The material in this book was highly relevant to the topic of this paper as it gave examples of cultural transformation because of Christianity.

**Article Review**

**Cultural discipleship as a means of preserving the Christian faith. (2023). Felix Cornelius Agyei.**

Abstract: This article examined how understanding of culture and gospel engagement can lead to the transformation of culture in a process called cultural discipleship which in turn, can lead to the preservation of the Christian faith. The research was predominantly literature-based research which gathered data from books, and articles. The literature revealed that the Christian faith and culture have always transformed each other and hence culture can be transformed (discipled) to respond appropriately to the gospel and this will serve as a means of preserving the Christian faith. The paper contributes to the public theological discourse on how the gospel relates to culture. It also enlightens Christians on how to practically engage culture with the gospel instead of seeing culture as evil.

Keywords: gospel and culture, cultural discipleship, preserving the Christian faith

**Cultural psychology of religion: Spiritual transformation. (2016). Dueck, A. Johnson, A.**

Abstract: Cultural psychology as a field has emerged over the past 30 years, but little effort has been expended in extrapolating its findings to transformative religious experiences. This essay posits a model of cultural psychology of religion and then uses it to assess Rambo and Farhadian’s ([2014](#_bookmark82)) *Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion*. The collection of essays in this handbook provides extensive and diverse perspectives on significant life changes labeled as such by the individuals involved and/or their communities. Instances of alignment with and departure from a cultural psychology of religion perspective are discussed, with careful attention given to the implications of indige- nous views of selfhood, community, and religion for the phenomenon of religious transformation. We present cultural psychology of religion as a mutually constellating network of cultural, psychological, and religious phenomena. Spiritual change, then, is a movement, be it subtle or extreme, from one cultural/psychological world to another. In expounding this view, we will refer for support to three exemplars of spiritual change (one each from the Muslim, Protestant, and Jewish traditions), the literature from the handbook, and other studies on the cultural psychology of religion.

Keywords: cultural psychology, religion, conversion, spiritual transformation, change

**Gospel and culture: An orthodox perspective. Orthodox Theology in Dialogue. (2020). Adrian, B.**

Abstract: Therefore, if a strict report is to be drawn, the Gospel always takes precedence over any older or newer culture. Contrarily, there is a danger that the Gospel turn into several “gospels”, one for each particular culture, becoming more a kind of human community’s aspiration, and not the message of Godʼs love for all people. That is why it is necessary to set the criteria for inculturation, that is, for the outcomes arising from the encounter between the Gospel and the cultures of the world. Under these conditions, any cultural expression of the Christian faith must remain united with the other expressions, resulting into faith harmony. Gospel teaching is transhistorical and transcultural, naturally speaking. This means that the way Christianity was understood and preached in the early Church is still relevant and bears existential significance to all people, regardless of the historical contexts they live in; the moment faith has reached inculturation stage. A new contextual expression of the Gospel must keep the same direction as the Apostolic and Patristic Tradition. As an act of the Holy Spirit, such a theology makes people experience more and more personal and collective meetings with God. A contextualized theology becomes a genuine expression of the Gospel when related to the doctrinal and liturgical life of the Church. Thus, the connection to “a new heaven and a new earth” promised by Our Lord is achieved.

Keywords: gospel, culture, perspective, pluralistic societies, interreligious dialogue

**Religion and cultural change. (2022). Laato, A. M.**

Abstract: The current issue of Approaching Religion is based on a summer school and conference arranged in Åbo/Turku, Finland, in June 2021, with the theme ‘Religion and Cultural Change’. The event was organized jointly by the Polin Institute for Theological Research (Åbo Akademi University), the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures (University of Turku), and the Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture. The aim was to bring together doctoral candidates and researchers from various academic fields who engage with the study of religion, such as theology, religious studies, history, philosophy, the arts, social and political sciences and so forth. This included presentations that engaged with the theme Religion and Cultural Change from both historical and contemporary perspectives, as well as looking to the future where possible. As conference organizers, we wanted to highlight cultural change both as dramatic breaking points in history and as slowly evolving transformations. Hence, the conference theme allowed us to address past, present and emerging trends and trajectories within culture, society and the scholarly community.

Keywords: religion, cultural change.

**The application of transformational development from a Christian perspective: A comparative case study*.* (2021).  Tenkodogo, M.**

This research answers the question: “How is the concept of transformational development understood and implemented in specific projects by Christian development organizations?” Transformational development is a Christian development approach aiming at holistic transformation with a relational understanding of poverty and development. The understanding of transformational development is directly linked with its application. Different implementation strategies are used by Christian development organizations, but the research showed how the organizational and local contexts equally shape the concept’s application. This includes the Christian development organizations’ (religious) identity, their history and organizational development, current size and resources, funding, and their corresponding projects and professionalism.

Keywords: development, religion, theology, evangelical, Christian development organizations, transformation, transformational development, relational approach, empowerment, Christian witness.

Steven, you wrote a good summary of each of your resources. For the books you provided a succinct biography of the author and his or her credentials. I enjoyed your assessment of each book’s (a) readability, (b) presentation of the subject, and (c) relevance to your chosen topic. For the articles, you fulfilled the assignment requirements of providing the title, year, and author(s) of the article and what keywords relate to a literature review supporting your research interests, and for the social research articles, a brief description of the research methods, the population being studied, and the findings/conclusions.

WORKS CITED

Adrian, B. (2020). Gospel and culture: An orthodox perspective. Orthodox Theology in Dialogue. (6). 53–69.

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