

## Title

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**Sexuality & Global Faith Networks: a social topography**

## What this Study Contributes

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The project adopts a social topographical approach as an innovative theoretical for examining the complex global network of the Anglican Communion, and how wider debates about sexuality have flowed across space and how responses are being formed within particular cultural/religious/economic milieus with particular (post)colonial histories.

## Team

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**Principal Investigator:** Prof Gill Valentine (Leeds)

**Co-Investigators:** Dr Robert Vanderbeck (Leeds), Dr Kevin Ward (Leeds)

## University

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University of Leeds

## Award

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Phase 1 Large Grant £298,293

## Research Partners

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Professor Gerald West, School of Religions and Theology, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa

## Approach

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The fieldwork is based in three nodes in the global network of the Anglican communion which provide vantage points from which to view wider processes and flows within the global network: 1. United Kingdom, 2. United States and 3. South Africa using a multi-method approach, namely:

- \* Mapping the historical socio-legislative contexts
- \* Discourse topography
- \* Participant observation
- \* Interviews with key stakeholders
- \* Parish level case studies
- \* Meetings with particular African representatives.

## Findings

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Project finishes **31<sup>st</sup> May 2010**.

## Activities and Outcomes

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Ward, K. 2009 'Pluralism and fundamentalism as challenges for the African churches: globalization, neo-colonialism and debates about homosexuality' in Koschorke, K. (ed.) *Einstuerzende Mauern* (Falling Walls). Harrassowitz Verlag: Wiesbaden, pp157-176: [http://www.kg1.evtheol.uni-muenchen.de/forschung/publikationen/daten/kosch\\_fr4.html](http://www.kg1.evtheol.uni-muenchen.de/forschung/publikationen/daten/kosch_fr4.html).

## Further Information

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### Podcasts

- Listen to co-Investigator Kevin Ward, Senior Lecturer in African Religious Studies in the Theology and Religious Studies Department at Leeds University, discuss the religious and cultural dimension of the research project in conversation with Norman Winter [here](#). [4min28sec]
- [Here](#), in a short conversation, Principal Investigator Gill Valentine discusses an overview of the scope of the research project, the research methods being used, and how the results of the study may have practical benefits in conflict resolution. [4min19sec]
- Hear the complete interview with Gill [here](#) [18min03sec] and short extracts: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).

**Project website:** <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/research/groups/faithnetwork>.