Churches and Cosmologies: Religion, Environment, and Social Conflict in Contemporary Latin America

Bio Sketches

Robert Albro is Research Associate Professor at American University’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. He received his PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago, and has conducted ethnographic research and published widely on popular and indigenous politics along Bolivia’s urban periphery, with attention to the changing terms of indigenous identity, citizenship and natural resource wars as part of grassroots-driven change in that country. Much of this work is summarized in his book, Roosters at Midnight: Indigenous Signs and Stigma in Local Bolivian Politics (School of Advanced Research Press, 2010). His research and writing have been supported by the National Science Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and the American Council for Learned Societies, among others. He has also been a Fulbright scholar, and held fellowships at the Carnegie Council, the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution. Email: robert.d.albro@gmail.com.

Evan Berry is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at American University and Co-Director of the Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs master’s program. He received his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His book, Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism (University of California Press, 2015), explores the religious underpinnings of the American environmental movement. His current research combines ethnographic research with philosophical reflection to examine the intersections among religion, globalization, civil society groups, and climate change, and seeks to advance knowledge about the role of religious actors as part of contemporary environmental contestations. He has been a Carnegie Council Global Ethics Fellow and is currently a Franklin Fellow at the US Department of State. Email: berry@american.edu.

Paul Freston is Professor and CIGI Chair in Religion and Politics in Global Context at Wilfrid Laurier University. He obtained his PhD from the State University of Campinas in Brazil. Dr. Freston is Senior Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Studies of Religion in Latin America Program at the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. He has authored nine books and sixty-five articles, is co-editor of the forthcoming Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America, and a member of the editorial board of multiple journals, including the Journal of Contemporary Religion. His three major books include: Evangelicals and Politics in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 2001), Protestant Political Parties: a Global Survey (Ashgate, 2004), and Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in Latin America (Oxford University Press, 2008). Email: pfreston@wlu.ca.

Cymene Howe is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Rice University. She obtained her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. Her research connects questions of human rights, environmental justice, climatological challenges and a theoretical focus
on understanding humanity’s shared and shifting ethical commitments. She has published extensively in the field of gender studies, including her ethnography *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua* (Duke University Press, 2013). Her book, *Ecologics: Wind and Power in the Anthropocene* (Cornell University Press, forthcoming), focuses on the political and social consequences of renewable energy projects in Mexico. She is also engaged in developing the first research center supporting energy and environmental research in the human sciences in the United States. Email: cymene@rice.edu.

**Guillermo Kerber** serves as Program Executive on Care for Creation and Climate Justice for the World Council of Churches, based in Geneva, Switzerland. He also serves as WCC’s Program Coordinator for Eco-Justice and Diakonia, a program which comprises economic justice, climate change, and water concerns. Dr. Kerber completed his PhD in Sciences and Religion at the Methodist University of São Paulo. He joined the World Council of Churches in 2001 as the Program Executive for Impunity, Justice, and Reconciliation in Latin America & the Caribbean and as a member of the International Affairs, Peace, and Human Security Team. Dr. Kerber is a leading authority on the role of the transnational church in addressing climate change and other environmental justice issues, and has worked extensively on understanding how climate change impacts rural development, youth, and indigenous peoples, particularly in Latin America. He is co-founder of the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment, and Human Rights. Email: guillermo.kerber_mas@wcc-coe.org.

**Mindahi Crescencio Bastida Muñoz** is the General Coordinator of the Otomi-Hñahñu Regional Council in Mexico, a caretaker of the philosophy and traditions of the Otomi people, and has been an Otomi Ritual Ceremony Officer since 1988. Born in Tultepec, Mexico, he holds a doctorate of rural development from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana and is the President of the Mexico Council of Sustainable Development. Bastida Muñoz is a member of the steering committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative, and has served as a delegate to several commissions and summits on indigenous rights and the environment. He has written extensively on the relationship between the state and indigenous peoples, intercultural education, collective intellectual property rights, and associated traditional knowledge, among other topics. He is also a Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. Email: mindahib@yahoo.com.mx