

Entanglement Between German Christian Missionaries and Indian Revolutionaries During the First World War in NfO

with Rev. Dr. Jayabalan Murthy

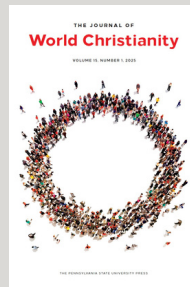
Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CET)

Location: Hybrid (in person at the
Niebuhrstr. 5 Lounge and online via Zoom)

Registration: To register, please email
David B. Smith (dsmith@uni-bonn.de) and
indicate whether you wish to attend online or
in person.



Also, at the start of this session, join us for
a discussion of the special 'Roundtable' on
"World Christianity and Asymmetrical
Dependency," to be featured in the latest
issue of the Journal of World Christianity!

**Dr. Jayabalan
Murthy** is a

post-doctoral
researcher at
Kirchliche
Hochschule in
Wuppertal. He
holds a



doctorate from Friedrich-Alexander-
Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg,
Germany, an M.A. in Intercultural
Theology from Georg-August-
Universität Göttingen, and a B.D.
(Bachelor of Divinity) from the Gurukul
Lutheran Theological College of
Serampore University, Calcutta. Dr.
Murthy has received four awards for
his outstanding performance in Luther
studies, religious studies, social
analysis, and Scripture knowledge. He
has coedited multiple volumes,
including one in the series Studies in
Religion and Intercultural Theology
volumes and another in the Horizon of
Intercultural Theology (HIT) series. His
articles have been published in national
and international journals, and he is
also the author of two books, one of
which was published in three
languages. His research interests
include Dalit studies/theology, War and
religion, Missiology, church history, and
Intercultural theology. Presently, his
post-doctoral research project focuses
on Intercaste marriages in India.

Dr. Murthy's Table Talk will explore the state of relations
between the German Christian missionaries and the
Christian English government before and after World War I
in India. The unpleasant consequences for German
Missionaries and their families that resulted from the
unwarranted attack of the German Cruiser SMS Emden on
the Madras Presidency in 1914 were aggravated further by
the act of a former soldier in the guise of a missionary.
This talk sheds new light on the involvement of the
German military, specifically, the *Nachrichtenstelle für den
Orient* (NfO), and the Hindu revolutionaries in causing
unrest in India with the aim of derailing the economy and
tarnishing the image of the British Government. The talk
will also expose the joining of forces of diametrically
opposite ideologies through such actions: the German
Christian Government, German Christian missionaries in
NfO, and the Indian Hindu revolutionaries on a common
platform. Likewise, it will uncover the manipulation of the
Christian biblical sources by the doctrinally similar
Christian denominations to whip up clashing nationalistic
passions. Furthermore, this presentation of ongoing
research will narrate the bitter experiences of separated
missionary spouses, scattered family members, the plight
of children, deportation, grueling voyages, seasickness,
experiences of missionaries as Prisoners of War (POWs),
and more.