

# World Christianity Studies & Asymmetrical Dependency (WCSAD)

Working Group

Monthly Table Talk

## Ecological Dependencies, World Christianity Studies, and the 'Capitalocene'

co-hosted with the Ecological Dependencies Working Group

**Date:** 14 February 2024, 4-6 p.m. CET

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration:** To register, please email David B. Smith (dsmith@uni-bonn.de).

Joerg Rieger's most recent monograph, "Theology in the Capitalocene: Ecology, Identity, Class and Solidarity" (Fortress, 2022), grapples with the concept of the 'capitalocene' through a constructive theological lens. Calling for "Deep Solidarity," which "cherishes and creatively deploys diversity rather than uniformity as it brings together the many to stand up for themselves," Rieger explores the complex and intersectional realities that shape human experiences of the current ecological crisis.

Asserting that "not all of humanity, and not even the majority of humanity, is driving the exploitation of the non-human environment and benefiting from it," he calls for a critical and theologically enriched approach to reigning global structures.

Rieger's text offers a scholarly appraisal of many challenges that face communities around the world, including those that gather around a shared religious identity. As the WCSAD Working Group continues to explore the complex relationship between the global Christian tradition and asymmetrical dependencies (both historic and enduring), his newest contribution to the field of theology is of great interest to us. The Ecological Dependencies Working Group, which is co-hosting this month's Table Talk, shares this interest as it seeks to understand how Environmental Humanities, which include the study of religions and beliefs, intersect with the study of slavery and asymmetrical dependencies.

**Dr. Joerg**

**Rieger** is

Distinguished Professor of Theology, Cal Turner Chancellor's Chair in



Wesleyan Studies, and Founding Director of the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice at Vanderbilt University, United States. The author and editor of 26 books, which have been translated into eight languages, and 189 academic articles, Rieger is a leader in the field of constructive theology. His work centers around questions related to the multiple intersections of religion and power, along with the impact of religion, for good or for ill, on social concerns. His various projects have drawn on a wide range of historical and contemporary traditions. They are guided by a concern for the roles that images of the divine play in political discourse, economics, ecology, and the pressures of everyday life.

