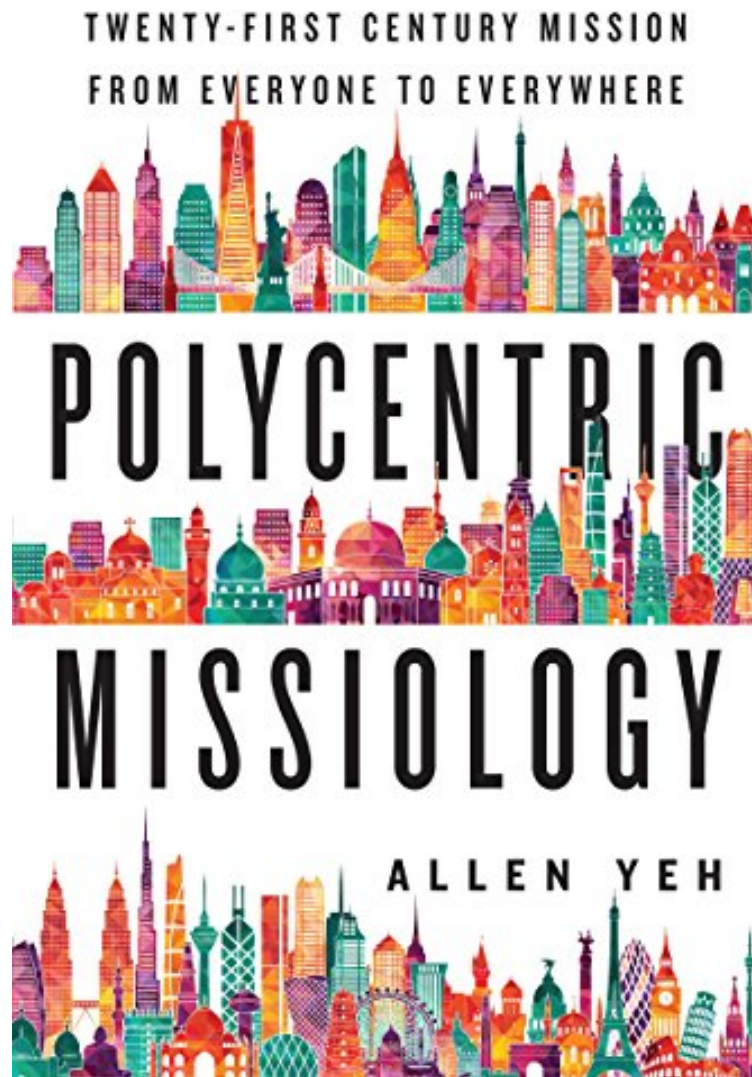


(Free pdf) Polycentric Missiology: 21st-Century Mission from Everyone to Everywhere

Polycentric Missiology: 21st-Century Mission from Everyone to Everywhere

Allen Yeh

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Allen Yeh : Polycentric Missiology: 21st-Century Mission from Everyone to Everywhere before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polycentric Missiology: 21st-Century Mission from Everyone to Everywhere:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Missions is the Mother of EcumenismBy Karl DahlfredMissiologist

Allen Yeh has written a very helpful and informative book overviewing current trends and conversations among missionaries and missiologists through the lens of five missions conferences held in 2010 and shortly thereafter. The fact that the book is organized around the individual conferences, rather than specific issues, brings life to the book so that the reader gets a feel for the atmosphere, ethos, and priorities of each conference. Yeh attended each of these conferences, so his writing reflects both his personal observations of participants and off-stage events, as well as assessments of the plenary sessions, workshops, and written documents. One chapter is devoted to each of the four missions conferences in 2010 (Tokyo 2010, Cape Town 2010, Edinburgh 2010, and 2010Boston) that were self-consciously held in recognition of the 100th year anniversary of the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. An additional chapter is on CLADE V, a 2012 Latin American mission conference that has strong connections to the other conferences but is more focused upon Latin American concerns. Prior to the chapters devoted to the particular conferences, Yeh takes one chapter to review 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, and another to make the case that World Christianity as an academic subject is worthy of study. The first chapter on the history and on-going influence of Edinburgh 1910 was particularly useful as Yeh evaluated the frequent claim that Edinburgh 1910 birthed the ecumenical movement. This claim is both true in the sense that the continuation committee did further and develop the ecumenical pathway started in 1910, but also not true in the sense that the full-orbed ecumenical movement embodied by the World Council of Churches was not in view in 1910. In the initial chapter, Yeh raises a theme that he returns to regularly throughout the book, namely Missions is the mother of ecumenism. At the 1910 conference, all questions of doctrine and polity were off the table in order to get as broad participation as possible (and to appease the small but influential group of Anglo-Catholic participants.) This desire for pursuing mission without talking about theology has contributed to both the ecumenical and evangelical streams of Christianity, the former represented by the World Council of Churches, and the later by the Lausanne Movement and other pan-evangelical and interdenominational mission endeavors. Among the 2010 conference, Edinburgh 2010 and 2010Boston were of the ecumenical variety, including mainline Protestant, evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox participants. Tokyo 2010 and Cape Town 2010 (Lausanne III) were in the evangelical stream and as such were more productive in terms of unity among participants in actual planning and strategizing for world mission, whereas such planning and partnership was nearly impossible at the ecumenical conferences because so much time needed to be spent on simply finding common ground that everyone could agree on. Other helpful themes in the book include the challenges of unity and diversity, representation (or lack thereof) of various demographics at the conferences, and the nature and necessity contextualized theology. I found that there were many topics or plenaries mentioned in passing that I would like to know more about but did not find in this book because Yeh's book provides just an overview, not comprehensive chronicling and analysis of everything that happened at the conferences. He does, however, provide detailed footnotes for interested readers to follow up on any particular conference topic or proceeding they are interested in. Yeh himself is an evangelical who teaches at an evangelical institution but this book is written in such a way that those from a wide variety of convictions could read and appreciate Yeh's findings. Yeh does express his own views and conclusions from time to time, but the vast majority of the book is informational reporting and analysis of what happened at the conferences (and how the conferences compare and contrast) rather than pronouncing value judgements as such. Yeh's writing style is easy to read, sufficiently academic and precise but lively enough to make for pleasant reading. The discussion questions at the end of each chapter could easily be used to generate discussion at missionary gatherings or in classrooms. Overall, I greatly enjoyed Yeh's overview of trends and conversations in missiology from the past to the present, and felt like I was brought up to speed with what happened at the major missions conferences of recent years.

The Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference was the most famous missions conference in modern church history. A century later, five conferences on five continents displayed the landscape of global mission at the dawn of the third millennium: Tokyo 2010, Edinburgh 2010, Cape Town 2010, 2010Boston, and CLADE V (San Jos, 2012). These five events provide a window into the state of world Christianity and contemporary missiology. Missiologist Allen Yeh, the only person to attend all five conferences, chronicles the recent history of world mission through the lenses of these landmark events. He assesses the legacy of Edinburgh 1910 and the development of world Christianity in the following century. Whereas Edinburgh 1910 symbolized Christendom's mission "from the West to the rest," the conferences of 2010-12 demonstrate the new realities of polycentric and polydirectional mission from everyone to everywhere. Yeh's accounts of the conferences highlight the crucial missiological issues of our era: evangelism, frontier missions, ecumenism, unengaged and post-Christian populations, reconciliation, postmodernities, contextualization, postcolonialism, migration, and more. What emerges is a portrait of a contemporary global Christian mission that encompasses every continent, embodying good news for all nations.

"Professor Yeh takes us on a tour de force from Edinburgh 1910 to CLADE V, 2012. He gathers mission themes and trends that no one else has been able to present because of his unique experiences attending the five major mission congresses in 2010 and 2012. Polycentric Missiology gives us a road map like no other: a comprehensive overview of

twenty-first century mission. This insightful study will provide signposts for mission leadership and engagement for decades to come. I highly recommend *Polycentric Missiology!*" (Joseph W. Handley Jr., president, Asian Access)"Polycentric Missiology not only emerges from everywhere (as indicated by the book's title)the author being the only one to have personally attended all five of the conferences discussed in the bookbut also catapults Allen Yeh from 'up-and-coming' to 'established scholar' status. Here is a historically informed, ecumenically broad, and polyperspectival analysis of missiological trends appropriate to their polymorphic character at the start of the third global millennium, yet one that also characterizes the life-giving generosity of the gospel needed for everyone in a complex and dynamic world." (Amos Yong, professor of theology and mission, Fuller Theological Seminary)"Polycentric Missiology traces the history of the five 20102012 conferences celebrating the Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference. It is a remarkable book, providing a compelling case for world Christianity. It unpacks the historical, cultural, local, and global themes that shape today's missiological issues. Christian mission is a local and global enterprise. Allen Yeh challenges us to listen to missional voices from all over world Christianity and to embrace mission that is 'from everyone to everywhere.'" (Graham Hill, professor of applied theology, Morling Baptist Theological College, author of *GlobalChurch*)"During 2010 and 2012 five gatherings convened on five continents to commemorate the landmark 1910 Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. Allen Yeh, who attended all five, has helpfully organized and creatively analyzed the main themes, discussions, debates, controversies, and proposals from these conferences. The result is an important report on the state of missionary thinking today, but also a persuasive demonstration of the book's subtitlethat contemporary Christian mission is now 'from everyone to everywhere.' It is an unusually helpful, unusually perceptive study." (Mark Noll, author of *The New Shape of World Christianity*)"In this volume, Allen Yeh provides a creative running commentary on the major international mission conferences held in 20102012. This lively and insightful volume is itself a historical milestonea benchmark for future reflections on the state of mission studies in the age of worldwide Christianity. I commend it with enthusiasm." (Dana L. Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, and director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Boston University)"Missiologist Allen Yeh offers a compelling narrative of both continuity and discontinuity for five conferences linking themselves with the centenary of the World Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh in 1910. His reflections, as first-hand accounts coming so soon after these events, will likely prove invaluable for years to come." (Todd Johnson, associate professor of global Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)About the AuthorAllen Yeh (DPhil, Oxford University) is associate professor of intercultural studies and missiology at Biola University. A missiologist who specializes in Latin America and China, he has traveled to over sixty countries and every continent to study, do missions work, and experience the culture. He is the coauthor of *Routes and Radishes: and Other Things to Talk About at the Evangelical Crossroads* and co-editor of *Expect Great Things, Attempt Great Things..* A member of over twenty associations, Allen serves on the board of directors for American Baptist International and is a member of the executive planning committee for the Asian American Pacific Islander Faith Alliance. He is also founder and chairman of the World Christianity study group at the Evangelical Theological Society.