

# ABHISHEK PRABHAKAR JOHN

Contact: Available upon request

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## EDUCATION

### **Ph.D. Candidate in Historical Studies**

Boston University School of Theology

Dissertation: *The Rise of Indian Evangelicalism: Local Agency, Transnational Influences, and the Shaping of Mid-Twentieth-Century Evangelical Christianity in India, 1950–1974*

Advisor: Dana L. Robert, William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor

### **Master of Advanced Studies in Ecumenical Studies**

University of Genève, Switzerland

Thesis: *The World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance: Progress and Challenges, 1950–2018*

### **Master of Theology in History of Christianity**

Senate of Serampore College (University), India

Thesis: *The Historical Impact of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (1968) on Christian Communities in Central India*

### **Master of Arts in Christian Management**

Martin Luther Christian University, India

### **Bachelor of Divinity / Bachelor of Theology**

Senate of Serampore College (University), India

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Teaching Fellow**

Teaching across graduate curricula in Christian mission, global Christianity, African Christianity, and comparative world history. My teaching integrates historical scholarship with ecumenical

sensibilities, emphasizing Christianity's entanglement with empire, colonialism, reform movements, and global networks. I prioritize dialogical classrooms attentive to religious diversity, migration, and lived faith traditions, and regularly mentor students in academic writing, research design, and vocational discernment.

## **Lecturer and Registrar**

*Asia Antioch Seminary, Guwahati | Believers Church Minor Seminary, Dehradun (2005-2005; 2011-2014; 2016-2018)*

Taught across undergraduate and graduate curricula in church history, history of missions, intercultural communication, research methodology, and modern religious and secular movements in South Asia. Supervised graduate research and guided students in historical method, source analysis, and academic writing. Contributed to curriculum development and institutional academic life during periods of growth and accreditation transition, alongside responsibilities in academic administration and registrar functions.

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## **TEACHING COMPETENCE**

- History of Christianity (Medieval to Modern)
- World Christianity and Mission Studies
- Christianity in South Asia and the Global South
- Religion, Colonialism, and Transnational Movements
- Global History Surveys and Historical Methods

Also prepared to offer introductory and advanced courses on Hindu traditions, religions of South Asia, and global religious history.

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## **RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

### **Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Boston University (2022-2024)**

Contributed to the intellectual life of the Center through seminar coordination, visiting scholar programs, and conference planning, while supporting research initiatives on global Christian movements and enhancing public-facing engagement through digital platforms.

### **Evangelical Fellowship of India (2017-2021)**

Senior administrative and research leadership within one of India's major evangelical bodies, contributing to policy reports for international human rights forums, convening national theological consultations, and shaping public communication during moments of ecclesial, social, and humanitarian crisis.

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## RESIDENT SCHOLAR

Overseas Ministries Studies Center (OMSC), Princeton Seminary, Princeton, NJ – August 21, 2025 – May 20, 2026

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Prabhakar John, Abhishek. “Christological Themes in the *Physiologus* and its Place in Medieval Theology.” *Doon Theological Journal* 19, no. 1-2 (June & December 2022): 118-134.
  - Prabhakar John, Abhishek. “John Jesudason Cornelius: A Forgotten Indian Christian Nationalist.” *Doon Theological Journal* 18, no. 2 (September 2021): 81-93.
  - Prabhakar John, Abhishek. Review of *Missional Conversations: A Dialogue between Theory and Praxis in World Mission*, edited by Cathy Ross and Colin Smith. *International Review of Mission* 108, no. 2 (November 2019): 438-439. DOI:10.1111/rom.12299
  - "Cornelius, John Jesudason." Boston University School of Theology: History of Missiology. Accessed July 29, 2025. <https://www.bu.edu/missiology/missionary-biography/c-d/cornelius-john-jesudason/>
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## PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- “J. Elwin Wright’s Global Vision of an Evangelical Coalition,” World Christianity Conference, Princeton Seminary, March 2025.
  - “Resilience in Community: Indian Christian Responses to Persecution,” BOISI Center, Boston College, April 2025.
  - “Religious Conversion Narratives in Judicial Reports,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2024.
  - “Christian Response in the Wake of Eastern Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka,” Interreligious Dialogue hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, May 5, 2019.
  - “Hospitality to the Other,” Sri Lankan Independence Day All Religions Gathering, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, February 4, 2019.
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## AWARDS & GRANTS

- Thomas J. and Nellie M. Shire Scholarship, Boston University (2021–2025)
- Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Clute Scholarship, BU School of Theology (2023, 2024, 2025)
- Torrey M. Johnson, Sr. Research Grant, Wheaton College (2024)

- Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs Travel Grant (2023, 2024)
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## **ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Fellow, 2023-24, Institute for Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA)  
Paper: “Judicial Reports and Narratives of Religious Conversion in India: An Analysis of the Judicial Reports of the Somasekhara and Saldanha Commissions on the 2008 Anti-Christian Violence in Mangalore, India”
  - Member, American Academy of Religion (AAR)
  - Member, American Society of Missiology (ASM)
  - Member, American Society of Church History (ASCH)
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## **SCHOLARLY & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Teaching and mentoring across culturally and religiously diverse contexts
  - Public scholarship at the intersection of Christianity, politics, and human rights
  - Transnational academic collaboration across South Asia, Europe, and North America
  - Languages: English and Hindi (fluent); Bengali and German (reading knowledge)
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## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request