

PRESS RELEASE

The Association of Theological Schools
in the United States and Canada

Contact: Stephen R. Graham or Frances Pacienza
412-788-6505 412-788-6510 (fax) www.ats.edu

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

2008-2009 ATS Lilly Theological Research Grants Recipients Named

(Pittsburgh, PA, March 12, 2008) The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) has announced its recipients for the Lilly Theological Research Grants for 2008-2009. Supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment, the ATS Lilly Theological Research Grants program is in its eleventh year. There are three types of grants-Faculty Fellowships (grants of \$30,000 during a leave), Theological Scholars Grants (grants up to \$12,000 each for research apart from formal research leave), and Research Expense Grants (grants up to \$5,000 for those engaged in research projects). A total of 25 grants were awarded.

Marion Sabine Grau, Associate Professor of Theology at Church Divinity School of the Pacific was awarded a Faculty Fellowship for her project, *World Without End: A Constructive Theology of Missionary Encounter*.

The shape of global Christianity has changed profoundly over the last decades. Former heartlands of Christianity, such as the United States, have seen a decline in mainline denominations, while many churches in formerly colonized societies have risen to unprecedented size and significance. The current tensions in the Anglican Communion offer an example of how missionary legacies inform contemporary theological controversies.

What are the implications of these shifts in global Christianity for mainline churches in the United States? What do they mean for the self-understanding of Western theology and Western churches? This project addresses these questions through a constructive approach to missiology.

The project will first consider the complex theological issues produced by colonial missions through an unflinching account of selected missionary encounters. Second, it will outline the implications of postcolonial approaches for understanding church and missionary theology. Third, it will articulate a vision for possible future with unexpected alliances, new models of theology of community, church and cooperative mutual transformation. Fourth, it will propose how such mutual transformation might impact and transform the work of theology in the United States.