DAMAYANTHI M.A. NILES

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| AREA OF STUDY | **THEOLOGY** |
| ADDRESS | Eden Theological Seminary475 East Lockwood Ave.Saint Louis MO, 63119-3192314 918 2594dniles@eden.edu |
| PRESENT POSITION | Professor of Constructive Theology Eden Theological Seminary Jan 2001 –Interim Academic DeanMay 2020 - Allen and Dottie Miller Chair of Mission and PeaceSeptember 2021 -  |
| FORMER POSITION | Research Associate (Associate Director) for the Christianity in Asia Project, Centre for Advanced Religious Studies, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University, June 1998 – 2000 |
| PERSONAL BACKGROUND | Born: September 14, 1965, Jaffna Sri-Lanka |
| EDUCATION | Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1998 M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, 1991B.A. St. Olaf College Majors: Religion & Psychology, 1988 |
| DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS | 1. History of Christian Thought through the Reformation2. Modern and Contemporary Christian Thought3. Theological Topic (Theology of Religions)4. History of Religions: Method and History of the Discipline 5. History of Religions: Special Area (Hinduism & Buddhism)  |
| DISSERTATIONCOMMITTEE | Co-advisors: David Tracy and Wendy DonigerReader: Anne Carr |
| CHURCH AFFILIATION | Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery St Louis MO, Presbyterian Church, USA |
| HONOURS | Member of the leadership team for the 2014-15 Wabash Center workshop for Pre-Tenure Theological School FacultyInducted into the Martin Luther King Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College. Atlanta Georgia, April 3, 2008Recipient of the 2005 Summer Grant for Research, Wabash CentreParticipant in 2004 Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty, Wabash CentreThe Edward Robert Scholarship in Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary (1990) |
| MEMBERSHIP INPROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS | Development Advisory Committee (FDAC) for Association of Theological Seminaries (ATS) (2001-04)American Academy of Religion (AAR)Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)Network of Theological Enquiry (NOTE)Theological Educators for Presbyterian Social Witness for the PCUSA (TESWP)Member of the Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA), consultation tea (2013 - )Steering Committee member of Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators (AANATE) (2014 - 2018) |
| CHURCH COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES | Member of the Vision Team, Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy (2018 - )Member of the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (GACER) of the Presbyterian Church USA (2006 -2012)Member of the Executive Committee General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (2008 -2012)Chair of the Sub-committee on Interfaith Relationships for GACER (2007-2012)Presbyterian Representative to the Interfaith Relations Commission, National Council of Churches (2007-2009) |
| PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | Academic Dean, Eden Theological Seminary (July 2020 – July 2022)Acting Dean, Eden Theological Seminary (August 2013 – January 2014)Adjunct Professor for the Advanced Pastoral Studies Summer Term at San Francisco Theological Seminary, June 5 – July 13, 2006 and June 8-July 16, 2009 at San Anselmo California. Led workshop “Doing Theology in a Pluralistic World” at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE), January 30, 2006On Board of Editors, *Madang: International Journal of Contextual Theology in East Asia* published twice a year by South Korean progressive theologians (2004 - )Co-lecturer with Dr Philip Wickeri, “New Directions in Mission in the 21st Century” at the Global Institute of Theology (GIT) in conjunction with the General Assembly of World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) in Accra, Ghana, July 22 - August 15, 2004Adjunct Lecturer, “Introduction to Asian Theology: Women and the Ecumenical Movement”, Women 's Studies Program, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Summer Term 1999Co-Guest Lecturer with Dr Kathleen Billman "Feminist/Womanist Theology," D.Min Program, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Summer 1995 & Summer 1996Guest Lecturer, "Asian Theology - A South Asian Perspective" in Introduction to Ethics, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Spring 1996Guest Lecturer, "Construction of Feminist/Womanist  Theology" in Women and Pastoral Care, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Winter 1993 & Spring 1994  |
| PUBLICATIONS | Doing Theology with Humility Generosity and Wonder: A Christian Theology of Pluralism. Minneapolis; Fortress Press, 2020“We Are a Storytelling People: An Asian American reflection on identity after Immigration” co-authored with Christine Hong in Insights: The Faculty Journal of Austin Seminary, vol 132 No. 1 Fall 2016Worshipping At the Feet of the Ancestors: Hendrik Kraemer and the Making of Contextual Theology in South Asia, Wien : Lit ; UK : Distribution, Global Book Marketing, 2012“It’s Time to Dance with Dragons”International Review of Mission, Vol 100.2, No. 393, November 2011.Article on DT Niles for the Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology edited by David Fergusson, Karen Kilby, Iain Torrance & Ian A. McFarland, Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2011Three articles on Contextualization in Theology, DT Niles, & M.M. Thomas for Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity edited by Daniel Patte Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2010Prayer in the Prayers for the New Social Awakening: **inspired by the new social creed, edited by Christian Iosso and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty,** Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008“Wasteful Abundance : An Asia Christian Perspective on the Plurality of Creation” in Negotiating Borders: Theological Explorations in the Global Era edited by Patrick Gnanapragasam & Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Delhi: ISPCK 2008“How the Study of Popular Religion Can Help Us in Our Theological Task,” International Review of Mission, Vol. 93, No. 369, April, 2004 “Toward a Broader Theological Conversation,” QUEST - a journal for the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA) and the United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA), Vol. 3, No. 1, April, 2004“Whose Text Is It Anyway?: The Way Text Functions in the Building Identity and Community” in Scripture, Community and Mission: Celebrating the Life of D. Preman Niles, ed. Philip L. Wickeri, CCA/CWM , 2003“An Asian Context” & “A Common Hope Is Always Context-Specific,” Hope For the World: Mission in a Global Context, ed. Walter Brueggemann, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2001 “The Plurality of Hope: Toward Further Dialogue and Engagement” in Plurality Power and Mission: Intercontextual Theological Explorations on the Role of Religion in the New Millennium, ed. Philip Wickeri, Janice Wickeri, and Damayanthi Niles, Council for World Mission, 2000“In Search of a Theological Methodology that takes Plurality Seriously in the Task of Mission” in The People of God Among All God's People: Frontiers in Christian Mission ed. Philip L. Wickeri, Christian Conference of Asia & Council for World Mission, 2000 |
| FORTHCOMING PREPARATION | *The Fallacy of Pure Identity* coming out in an edited volume for the Parliament of World Religions  |
| PRESENTATIONS | Presentation: *Learnings for* *the Post-Pandemic Church* at the United Church of Christ (UCC) Summit, “The Space Between: The Emerging Church in a Post-Pandemic World,” September 19-21, 2022.Presentation: *Christian Participation in a Pluralistic World* the closing keynote speech at the ATLA Annual 2022 Conference, June 18, 2022Presentation: *The Fallacy of Pure Identity*, at the Parliament of World Religions session on Buddhist Violent Extremism in Sri Lanka November 4 2018Guest Lecture on “Reunderstanding Christian Theology in a Pluralistic World” for Mo Ranch Circle of Friends, at Presbyterian Mo Ranch Conference Centre, Texas October 22-25 2012“Theologians Journey Through a War Torn Land” Series of Adult Education class taught at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church (February 26, March 4, 11 & 18 2012) & Ladue Chapel St Louis MO (April 15 & 22 2012)“Constructive Theology” Christian Theological Seminary Jaffna Sri Lanka Sept 26-Oct 7 2011Bible Studies, Theological College of Lanka Pilimatalawa Sri Lanka October 12-13 2011Methodist Training Retreat for the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka October 27-29 2011Keynote paper at the Religion and Culture conference at the Institute for the Study of Religions and Cultures at Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand July 24-30, 2007 Tollefson Lecture, November 9, 2006 at the Buena Vista University, IowaLecture on “Constructing a Christian Theology on Pluralism,” 2006 at Lexington Theological Seminary March 2, 2006Presented a paper on “Christian Theology's Engagement with Religious Pluralism” at the request of the National Council of Churches USA at the American Academy of Religion (AAR), November, 2005 at Philadelphia.Participated in the Women in Leadership Seminar of the Association of Theological Seminaries (ATS), October 21-23, 2005Presentation at the Association of Theological Seminaries (ATS) gathering of Asian Scholars, Spring 2005 at the Redondo Beach, CaliforniaKeynote paper at the conference on Mission History and Intercultural Theology, January 26-28, 2005 at the University of Kampen, NetherlandsPresentation on “How to be Christian in a Pluralistic World” at the Festival of Faiths, November 11, 2004 at Louisville, KentuckyPreacher at the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches USA, November 10, 2004 at St Louis MissouriLecturer for the Taiwanese Presbyterian Churches in America, Oct 13-15, 2004 in St Louis, MissouriPresentation at the Pastor-Theologian Conference, Centre for Theological Inquiry (CTI), June 24-27, 2004 at Montreal, CanadaPreacher at the Commissioning Service for Drs Anil and Teresa Henry, Chapel at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, April 11, 2003Susan Draper White Lecturers in Women’s Studies at United Theological Seminary, New Brighton Minnesota, March 4–5, 2002Lecture “Sept 11, 2001, Empire and Religious Identity” at the Department of Christian Studies at the University of Madras, Chennai, India, January 17, 2002Drafter and participation at the Network of Theological Enquiry (NOTE) meeting, Chennai India, January 6-11, 2002Presentation at Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS) III, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, August 2001“Looking for a Missiological Method that Takes Plurality Seriously,” Mission Round Table - Joint meeting of Council for World Mission (CWM) and Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) Endeavour, Hong Kong, November 11-17, 1999Presentation on the work of Mark Heim at 2001 Annual Meeting of the Council for Theological Education, Cleveland, Ohio, October 26, 2001“A New Way Forward: The Use of Understandings of Religion in the Theological Task” Research Consultation on “Critical Review of Asian Theology: Debates and Methods” sponsored by the Programme for Theology and Cultures in Asia (PTCA), Hong Kong, November 1-5, 1998Theological Reflector at the Annual General Meeting of the Division of World Outreach, United Church of Canada, Toronto, Canada, February 7-11, 1997"Response of Young Adults to the Church" Global Mission Conference of the Presbyterian Church USA, Montreat, North Carolina, July 1989 |
| "PROJECTS | Participate in The Virtual Forum of Women Theologians, Professors, and Researchers, held by the Coordinating Committee on Practice in Theological Education, Global Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ), May 23 - 24, 2022.Participant in the Interfaith Consultation for the Presbyterian Church (USA) (Sept 18-12, 2014)Member of the planning committee for the creation of an interfaith stance for Presbyterian Church (USA) 2012 -Participant in the Ecumenical Consultation for the Presbyterian Church (Sept 27-29, 2007)Drafter on the New Ecumenical Stance for the PCUSA (particular focus on “The Changing Ecumenical Landscape”)Participant in Network of Theological Enquiry (NOTE) Conference, “Prophetic Christianity and Church State relationships” Cape Town, South Africa, 2004Participant in and part of the report drafting team at “Toward the Fullness of Life: Intercontextual Relationship in Mission” a Missiological Consultation sponsored by the WCC Mission and Evangelism Team, the Council for World Mission (CWM, London), the Community of Churches in Mission (CEVAA, Montpellier, France) and the United Evangelical Mission (UEM, Wuppertal, Germany), London, England, April 14-19, 2002Participant in Network of Theological Enquiry (NOTE) Conference “Scripture, Community and Mission” Chennai India, January 2002Participant in preparatory meeting for a study process to explore major challenges for mission today and to contribute to a renewed formulation of ecumenical mission theology sponsored by the WCC Mission and Evangelism Team, the Council for World Mission (CWM, London), the Community of Churches in Mission (CEVAA, Montpellier, France) and the United Evangelical Mission (UEM, Wuppertal, Germany), Geneva, Switzerland, March 26-30 2001Participant in Campbell Scholar Mission Seminar, “The Mission of the Church in the 21st Century: Mission as Action in Hope” Columbia Theological Seminary, September-November 2000; other participants: Erskine Clarke, Walter Brueggemann, Russel Botman, Douglas John Hall, Ofelia Ortega, Janos Pasztor, Joanna Adams, James LowryOrganizer and Participant in Network of Theological Enquiry (NOTE) Conference, “Looking for, Emerging Trends in Theology,” Cambridge University, March 27-April 2, 2000 |
| SUPERVISIONSAT UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE | K.R. Goldie, Fitzwilliam College, M.Phil TheologyThesis: “The Significance of Hinduism and Buddhism as a Factor in Indian Church Union” |
| EXAMINER | PH.D. thesis for the Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras, January, 2001 |
| LANGUAGES | Reading knowledge of French, German, Hebrew, and Greek, some conversational Tamil |