



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

November 2016

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Editor:

Jim Harries, PhD,

Chairman of the AVM



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The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.

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“vulnerability is ... the birthplace of joy, of creativity, of belonging, of love”

by Brené Brown (– see ([here](#)) or in last month’s (October) AVM Bulletin.)

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This month’s Bulletin features work by Peking University scholar Dr. Thorsten J. Pattberg, from Germany.



- A great piece that should make the West think very seriously about its globalisation project: [Language and Empire: my language, your prison](#)
- Here's another piece about 'language imperialism' by Thorsten J. Pattberg called [The End of Translation](#).



- Pattberg tells us that because 'knowledge is a polyglot', we need "to unite all the languages' vocabularies into one" to make a truly global language! See [here](#) for a six minute you tube that explains this.

- "I have nothing against translation, but there are simple things that you should not translate in order to show respect to other cultures" says Pattberg in an interview [here](#).
- "What we see in Western China studies is a fraud" says Pattberg in [this you tube video](#), in which he dramatically trashes Western scholarship as ingrown and provincial. See also [this](#) similar video, which Pattberg says that hegemonic Western educational systems "force us to employ pure and clean English or else perish". Much the same could be said of African languages and cultures.

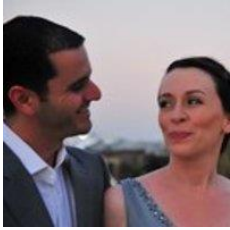
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- **'We don't want the missionary'** is the title of Jim Harries' latest blog, published by Global Connections, UK. See it [here](#).

- In [this](#) blog, published by Global Connections UK, Jim Harries asks: "My fleshly-me often wishes I could have a wife, try her out for a while, then leave her if I don't want to carry on. **If this is not allowed for wives, why is it allowed for mission?**"





- **Ellen Hurst teaches in Cape Town**, South Africa. Her academic.edu page is [here](#). Below I highlight some pieces of work done by her:

1. English and the academy for African skilled migrants: The impact of English as an ‘Academic lingua franca’

Ellen Hurst from Cape town tells us that: “The research shows that some of the **assumptions that are made by the academy about the ‘neutrality’ of the English medium as an ‘academic lingua franca’ are misplaced**. A conundrum remains: the dominance of English in the academy needs to be challenged if other languages are to continue to develop scientifically and philosophically, yet at an individual level, for academics looking for success in an international career, there is currently little incentive to challenge the status quo.” See [here](#) for full article.

2. Navigating language: strategies, transitions, and the ‘colonial wound’ in South African education

Ellen Hurst tells us that: “Higher education institutions in South Africa are dominated by English, a result of the colonial history of the country and its education system, a legacy which is intensified by the current dominance of English in higher education worldwide. This article applies a decolonial theoretical lens to argue that **the dominance of English in South African education manifests in the ‘colonial wound’**, what Walter Mignolo describes as the damage done by ‘the fact that regions and people around the world have been classified as underdeveloped economically and mentally’.” See [here](#) for full article.

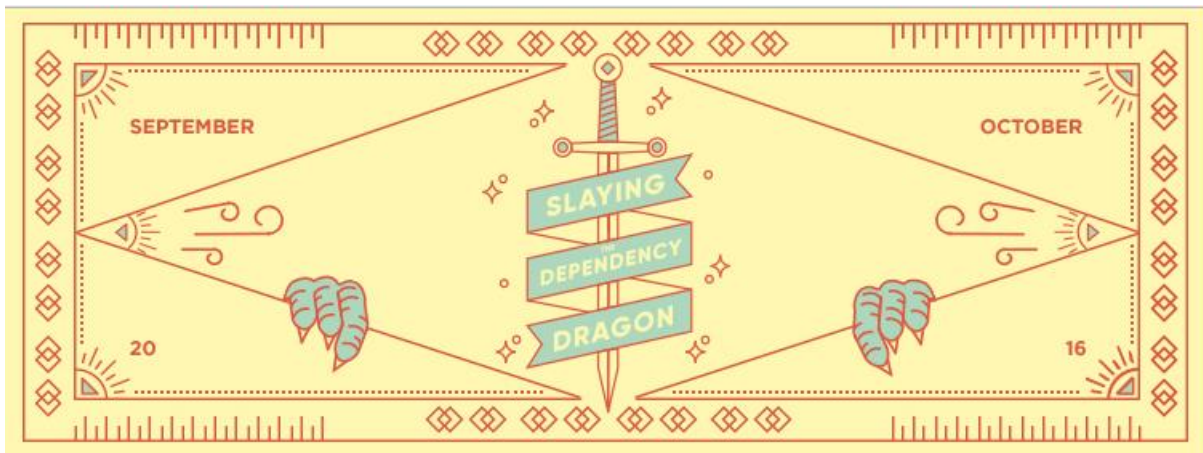
- **Would Lesslie Newbigin have been a vulnerable mission fan?** Quite likely yes, according to these thoughts from his book: Newbigin, Lesslie. 1993 (1985), *Unfinished Agenda: An updated autobiography*. Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press. (The author of these comments asked to remain anonymous.)

p. 112+113: ... putting the emphasis [of the WCC] on the local co-operation. Such a council would have reflected the economic realities of the member Churches. But the Americans were immensely rich, immensely generous, and full of splendid visions. They would be happy to foot the bill for an organization with real clout. And do it was for the first and formative decade of the council's life. I did not fully understand the issues then, for this was a strange and bewildering world. But I realize now that the basic principle was being forgotten - that the health of a body is a function of the health of its smallest units.

p. 132+133: A group of dedicated laymen in the USA, called 'World Neighbours Inc.', was eager to pour large sums of money into village development projects provided that their name was prominently displayed and their hands were on the controls. We did indeed struggle to develop all kinds of projects for strengthening the village economy by building on local skills such as tanning and basket-making. But it was frustrating work. Foreign money poured into a desperately poor Church could only corrupt it. The essential thing was to evoke the commitment of the village people themselves, waiting patiently for their response, and then offering small amounts of aid commensurate with the scale of the operations. We could not promise our generous American friends quick results.

- *Mission Frontiers*, September to October 2016 has a special edition on:

Slaying the Dependency Dragon



See [here](#) for all the articles.

- **Dependency: The Crippler of People and Movements** by Rick Wood is [here](#).
- **The Best Way to Plant Indigenous Churches Is to Begin that Way** by Jean Johnson is [here](#).
- **Dependency & Self-Reliance: My Personal Journey** by Glenn Schwartz is [here](#).
- To participate in a one-hour on-line chat on **Dambisa Moyo's book *Dead Aid*** On 21 November or 23 November see the schedule below. You can participate on either day. It will take place at https://hangouts.google.com/hangouts/_/sil.org/lead-cop-td

To join in you will need a google.com account, though those are free and easy to create. For more information write to Ross Meyers (ross_meyers@sil.org).

Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability

sponsored by the **Alliance for Vulnerable Mission** (vulnerablemission.org)

Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, www.tsm.org

Wednesday 8th November 2017 registration at 5.00pm, finishing 12 noon on Saturday 11th November.

Cost: \$270.00 conference and meals. Bed and breakfast separate. Discounts available for those attending part-time and/or students.

Speakers to include:

Jean Johnson, Director, World Mission Associates.

Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.

Rev. Canon Dr. John Macdonald, Trinity School for Ministry, PA.

Dr. Jim Harries, Chair, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.

Fred and Carol Lewis, Worldview, Portland, OR.

and other speakers ...



'Emphasising the use of indigenous languages and resources as the norm for some intercultural workers.'

We are looking for presenters of papers in other languages: Korean, Swahili, Spanish ...

Queries to: jim@vulnerablemission.org or jmacdonald@tsm.edu

(Details may still change. Registration to open 1st March 2017.)

