Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative

JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION and Center for Religion and Civic Culture at USC

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

$3.5 million for social science research grants

Grants for centers and individual scholars to conduct social science research on Pentecostal and charismatic Christianity in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative (PCRI) will provide up to $3.5 million to support social science research on Pentecostalism and charismatic expressions of Christianity. PCRI will select and award up to seven grants to regional centers and fifteen grants to individual scholars or small research teams. Funded by the John Templeton Foundation and administered by the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California, this initiative is intended to provide a scholarly framework to investigate Pentecostalism and the various renewal movements that have emerged in Roman Catholicism and mainline Protestantism.

Regional Center Grants  Up to $500,000
Individual Grants  Up to $100,000 for scholars, doctoral students, and small research teams

Deadline for Letters of Intent  August 1, 2009

See reverse side for more information.

www.usc.edu/PCRI

Center for Religion and Civic Culture
Engaging Scholars, Building Communities
Regional Center Grants

PCRI will provide up to seven grants to establish or support research networks and centers. Applicants may request up to $500,000 over two years. Proposals may include scholars from North America and Europe, but the core component of research staff must be located in the region of focus.

Individual Grants

PCRI will provide grant support for up to 15 projects ($100,000 each) over two years to support scholarly research in the region of focus. Joint proposals, for example between a graduate student and his/her adviser, or between two scholars, are eligible.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative (PCRI) will only consider inquiries that address one or more of the following core questions:

1. What are the distinctive characteristics of the spiritual practices and experiences of Pentecostal and charismatic Christians? How do they vary across different cultural settings? And how do they differ from other religious traditions (including within Christianity)?
   - What roles do worship, prayer, glossolalia, prophecy, healing, and various spiritual disciplines (e.g., fasting, meditation, etc.) play in the lives of individuals, as well in the organizational life of congregations?
   - What effects do these practices have on personal and social transformation, if any, and how do these changes differ from one culture, or even congregational setting, to another?
   - What is the relationship between character development and spirituality within the Pentecostal/charismatic experience?

2. Where precisely are Pentecostal and charismatically-oriented churches growing and where are they not? What accounts for growth and how, conversely, can the lack of growth or decline be explained?
   - What are the demographic and organizational characteristics of churches that are growing, and what social, cultural and political contexts are most favorable for the growth and/or decline of Pentecostal/charismatic Christianity?
   - What aspects of these churches give them a competitive advantage in the religious marketplace? Are those factors the same in different places? If not, how do they differ?
   - What sorts of collaborations and networks exist among Pentecostal/charismatic churches? What role does technology play in linking individuals and congregations globally? What is the nature of the interaction with other religious communities, traditions, and NGOs, including non-Christian groups?

3. What is the impact on civil society, if any, of Pentecostal/charismatic religion? What contribution does the study of “spirit-empowered” religion make to our understanding of the role of religion in human society?
   - Is Pentecostal/charismatic religion contributing to economic growth? If so, how? What is the impact, as well as the potential liabilities, of the “prosperity gospel”?
   - How is Pentecostal/charismatic religion addressing problems related to poverty, health care, education, drug and alcohol addiction, political corruption, etc.? Is this form of religion making any contribution to the development of a vibrant civic culture?
   - How does Pentecostal/charismatic religion develop networks of trust and reciprocity? Do these networks of “social capital” facilitate or retard economic and social cooperation? And what is the potential political impact of Pentecostal/charismatic Christianity on society?

APPLICATION PROCESS

For a full description of the required elements of the Letter of Intent and PCRI, visit www.usc.edu/PCRI. Letters of Intent are due on August 1, 2009. PCRI will invite a limited number of applicants to submit full proposals.

August 1, 2009 Letters of Intent due. Four pages, plus C.V. of principal investigator(s)

October 1, 2009 Selected applicants invited to submit full proposals

If you have questions about the initiative, please contact:

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