

---

Volume 61 | Issue 1

Article 54

---

5-1-2018


## Maggay's "Global kingdom, global people: Living faithfully in a multicultural world"

Stefana Dan Laing

*Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Houston)*

*The Christian Librarian* is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

 Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#), and the [South and Southeast Asian Languages and Societies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Laing, Stefana Dan (2018) "Maggay's " Global kingdom, global people: Living faithfully in a multicultural world"," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 61 : Iss. 1 , Article 54.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol61/iss1/54>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact [arolfe@georgefox.edu](mailto:arolfe@georgefox.edu).

# Book Reviews

---



Maggay, M.P. (2017). *Global kingdom, global people: Living faithfully in a multicultural world*. Carlisle, UK: Langham Global Library. 138 pp. £9.99. ISBN 9781783681983

In this book, Filipina author Melba Padilla Maggay offers a cultural and theological anthropological examination of several biblical texts. Maggay is a widely-published writer on cultural and social anthropology, and she speaks from a South Asian perspective. She is also the co-founder and president of ISACC (Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture). While this volume is academic, it does not stray too far from practical and missiological concerns.

Maggay's theme is that the drive toward globalization on a mass scale undervalues multiculturalism, as globalization entails forced cultural integration, assimilation, and homogenization, thereby stifling indigenous identities. She expresses a deeply positive and optimistic view of individual local cultures, underscoring their uniqueness and beauty in the light of God, as diverse witnesses to God's creativity. She wants to retain ethnic primal identities, but she also encourages the reader to think about engaging globally in a manner faithful to the gospel.

The work is divided into three parts with several chapters apiece: *The Roots of Culture*, *The 'Global Village': Living in a Multicultural World*, and *Missions in Context: McWorld and the Gospel*. After introducing an array of complex questions and issues surrounding the impact of increasing globalization with respect to the economy, politics, and religion, Maggay both laments the pressure for smaller, traditional indigenous cultures to accept it and adapt (although it obscures problems and disparities at a local level), as well as offers a way forward through biblical reflections on culture. She fulfills her goal of "finding our way through the open sea" of issues through a sort of theological and anthropological commentary on pertinent biblical texts from Genesis to Revelation (p. 7). The first part focuses intensely on Genesis 1-11, while part two engages other Old Testament texts about migration, sojourn, exile, alienation, restoration of homeland, and the eschatological promise of a new economic future of justice and hope. Part three treats New Testament ideas of restoration of unity in diversity (at Pentecost), cultural and religious issues faced by the gospel (Jew-Gentile interactions), concluding with the long-anticipated fulfillment of Revelation's final unity of every "nation, tribe, people and language" worshipping around the throne of the Lamb (p. 119).

This is not a heavy academic tome, but rather a kind of manifesto; it is a call to value indigenous cultures and to resist the gospel of globalization because complying with it is quite problematic. Its unique contribution as a majority world voice for missional cultural engagement is also a kind of limitation: Maggay most often restricts her examples to her home country of the Philippines. This is not to say, however, that her insights cannot apply more broadly. The book is written in clear and attractive prose, tending to alternate fluidly between academic, conversational and lyrical tones. It is not a difficult read but it nonetheless challenges the reader, containing valuable and lucid biblical interpretations. The engagement with Genesis 1-11 seems to be her strongest work. The volume contains footnotes (although they do not overwhelm) and a bibliography, but it lacks an index. This book is recommended for Christian college libraries and theological seminaries in the missions and cultural anthropology collections.

**Reviewer**

Stefana Dan Laing, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Houston)