

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

The second issue of volume six of the *Journal of the Council for Research on Religion* (JCREOR) is a special issue on *African Worldviews and Ecological Hermeneutics*. The issue focuses on topics discussed at the Colloquium on African Ecological Hermeneutics, held at the Montreal Presbyterian College in collaboration with McGill's School of Religious Studies on April 17, 2024. The papers in this issue explore how Indigenous African religious beliefs and practices offer an important framework, not only for rethinking scripture, but also for addressing global ecological challenges. The contributors seek to challenge dominant Western exegetical approaches, address the harm that Western materialism and consumerism have caused to the natural environment, and promote Indigenous African knowledge and practices.

The issue begins with several articles advocating for the decolonization of biblical studies. Sébastien Doane argues that biblical studies must replace "objective" Western exegesis with an ethical hermeneutic of listening. Moïse Adéniran Adékambi contends that African oral and written traditions should be recognized as a legitimate canon of God's Word. Similarly, Clement Oyelakin presents African worldviews and lived experiences as foundational to developing authentic and transformative biblical interpretations. Paul Anyidoho examines the theological significance of African oral traditions and linguistics, demonstrating how they can offer deeper insights into scriptural narratives. Pierre Sorro broadens the volume's focus to include environmental ethics by addressing the marginalization of African ecological knowledge. John Galaty concludes the collection with an examination of belief and ritual across four foundational African ethnolinguistic traditions.

– Gerbern S. Oegema, Amanda Rosini, Elyse MacLeod & Mathew K. Birgen

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