

# Kristina Micu

Ph.D. Student

Rutgers University – Newark  
Global Urban Studies Ph.D. Program

[Kristina.Micu1@gmail.com](mailto:Kristina.Micu1@gmail.com)

[kristinamicu.net](http://kristinamicu.net)

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## **EDUCATION**

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| Rutgers University, Newark   |      |
| Ph.D. in Global Urban Studies, Urban Systems<br>(Field: Collective Action, Religion, Global Civil Society) | 2024 |
| New School University  |      |
| Master of Arts in International Affairs,<br>Specialization: Conflict and Security                          | 2016 |
| Saint Peter's University   |      |
| Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude)<br>Sociology and Urban Studies (Double Major)                           | 2008 |

## **DOCTORAL RESEARCH**

Micu, Kristina. "What's Faith Got to Do it? A Systematic Analysis of Faith in the Context of Church Multiplication in the Philippines and United States." – *Dissertation Research Proposal*

*Abstract:* While many civil society organizations and social movements have contracted in recent decades, certain faith communities, specifically Christian Evangelical churches, have flourished in various geographical and social-political contexts. To build our understanding of the causes of this social phenomenon, this research asks, "how do churches multiply?" and investigates the cultural conditions that give rise to church multiplication. The dynamic nature and form of a church cannot be restricted to mere explanations that are largely static and which does not fully account for the ongoing decision-making and collective action of individuals. Instead, it requires a method of process tracing to understand church multiplication – the factors that engender its mobilization, the institutional, cultural and political contexts that shapes its formation, and the web of exchanges within congregations and between congregations and the community. I hypothesize that faith leads to church multiplication through the process of evangelism and discipleship. I argue that faith can be contextually defined and systematically analyzed in the context of church multiplication by examining the ongoing and dynamic interactions of disciples and their social relationships with others. In doing so, we can understand how faith is transmitted through a web of relational exchanges while also providing generalizable purchase on how faith mobilizes action across temporal span and in various contexts.

I argue that faith is a spiritual-physical process that transforms individuals and likewise connect individuals' transformation to church multiplication. To understand the transformative process of faith, this study takes an in-depth review of Christian theology to examine the content of the Christian faith that leads to individuals' transformation and church multiplication. Through a more nuanced investigation of faith in a Christian theological standpoint, scholarship can move away from the mere generalities and static descriptions of faith and understand: 1) how faith comes to be, and 2) how Christian disciples become signifying agents of faith.

In attempting to fill these theoretical and empirical gaps, the proposed research will conduct a comparative study using participatory observation, semi-structured interviews, and life history interviews as the

methods to investigate how churches multiply in the Philippines and in the United States. In the Philippines, the study will examine the International Bible Church and its network of churches in Metro-Manila, Quezon Province, and Rizal Province Philippines. In the context of United States, this study will examine the multiplication of Asian American Churches specifically six immigrant Filipino churches in Los Angeles, California and New York City, New York.

### **DISSERTATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

*Committee Chair*, [Janice Gallagher](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Rutgers University-Newark.

*Committee Member*, [Rose Cuison-Villazor](#), Vice Dean, Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School, Rutgers University-Newark

### **WORKING PAPERS**

Micu, Kristina. "A New Typology of Collective Action: Noncooperative Reaction and Unregistered Protestant House Churches in China."

Micu, Kristina. "Rethinking Sanctuary: Church and Collective Behavior."

### **GRANTS**

Travel Grant, "*Civic Dialogue, Democracy, and the Arts*" Independent Study Course, Warsaw, Poland, 2018

### **ASSOCIATIONS**

2021 – Present      Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

2021 – Present      Member, Association for the Sociology of Religion

### **TEACHING**

#### **Saint Peter's University**

*Adjunct Faculty, Department of Sociology and Urban Studies (01/2017 – Present)*

##### Race and Ethnicity

- Spring 2022 (online teaching)

##### Intercultural Relations

- Fall 2021 (online teaching)
- Fall 2020 (online teaching)
- Fall 2019 (online teaching)
- Fall 2017 (in-person)

##### Global Feminism

- Spring 2018 (in-person)

##### Introduction to Sociology

- Spring 2017 (in-person)
- Fall 2018 (hybrid)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

01/2017 – Present      Adjunct Faculty, Department of Sociology & Urban Studies, Saint Peter's University  
7/2016 – Present      Program Coordinator, Center for Migration & the Global City, Rutgers University  
04/2014 – 6/2016      Student Services Coordinator, The Culinary School at Eva's Village  
7/2011 – 4/2014      Case Manager, Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation  
4/2009 – 1/2012      Residential Counselor, SERV Behavioral Health Systems Inc.

## **INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

5/2013 – 10/2013      International Rescue Committee, New York, NY  
1/2009 – 12/2011      Arigatou International, Geneva, Switzerland  
12/2008 – 7/2009      International Organization for Migration, Geneva, Switzerland  
07/2008 – 10/2008      United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, Switzerland