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## Contributors to Indian Catholicism: Interventions and Imaginings

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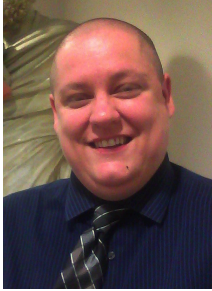
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## Contributors

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**Dr. James Ponniah** is assistant professor in the Department of Christian Studies at the University of Madras. He previously was the dean of the faculty of philosophy and an associate professor in the Department of Indian Studies at Jnana Deepa Vidaypeeth University in India. Ponniah specializes in popular religious movements in India. Ponniah published *The Dynamics of Folk Religion in Society* in 2011 and has co-edited three other books; in addition, he has written numerous articles about popular religious movements in India. Ponniah was also a part of the Christianity and Freedom Project headed by the Berkley Center's Religious Freedom Project. He holds an MA and PhD from the University of Madras.



**Dr. Kerry P. C. San Chirico** is assistant professor of Interfaith and Interreligious Studies at Villanova University. Born and raised in Monterey, California, he holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University, and master's degrees from Princeton Seminary, Rutgers University, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Boston College. He holds a doctorate in religious studies (South Asian religions) from the University of California, Santa Barbara. With expertise in Indian religions and global Christianities, his scholarly interests include South Asian bhakti, vernacular Hinduisms, inter-religious interaction and exchange, and theory and method in the study of religion. Recent publications include the chapter "Religion in the Practice of Daily Life in India" in the multi-volume series *Religion and Everyday Life and Culture* (Praeger, 2010) and "Between Christian and Hindu: Khrist Bhaktas, Catholics, and the Negotiation of Devotion in the Banaras Region" in *Constructing Indian Christianities* (Routledge India, 2014). He is co-editor of the forthcoming book *Hagiography and Religious Truth* (Bloomsbury), which

explores sanctity across religious traditions. Currently the secretary of the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, San Chirico resides in Narberth, Pennsylvania with his wife and three daughters.



**Dr. Mathew N. Schmalz** is the founding editor of the *Journal of Global Catholicism*. He is associate professor of religious studies at the College of the Holy Cross and received his BA from Amherst College and his PhD in the history of religions from the University of Chicago. He has published over fifty articles and essays that engage global Catholicism (particularly in South Asia), Catholic theology and spirituality, Mormonism, and The Watchtower movement. He is co-editor of *Engaging South Asian Religions: Boundaries, Appropriations, and Resistances* (SUNY, 2012, with Peter Gottschalk) and author of *Mercy Matters: Opening Yourself to the Life Changing Gift* (OSV, 2016). Schmalz has also written over one hundred opinion pieces that have appeared in *On Faith*, *Crux*, *The Huffington Post* and the in the print editions of *The Washington Post*, *Commonweal Magazine*, *US Catholic*, *The National Catholic Reporter*, *the Providence Journal*, and the *Telegram & Gazette*. He has provided expert commentary to *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *ABC's Good Morning America*, NPR, CNBC, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, and *U.S. News & World Report*, among others.



**Dr. Sonja Thomas** is an assistant professor of women's gender and sexuality studies at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Her forthcoming book, *The Politics of Belonging: Gender, Caste, Race and Religion in Postcolonial South Asia*, focuses on the Syrian Christian community in Kerala, India. In the book, Thomas examines how a state sponsored political interpretation of minorities in India seeks to homogenize minorities as subordinated in order to protect their rights while on the ground, caste, class and racial hierarchies are reified in numerous ways between minority communities making feminist solidarity *between* religions, castes, races and classes and *among* minority populations, contentious. She has written articles on gender, education and human rights in India, South Asian feminisms, and on the field of women's studies. Thomas received her PhD from the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Rutgers University.