

“Thoroughly researched, tackling a huge topic with impressive scholarship . . . [this book] poses an unsettling question: Is a one-size-fits-all, take-it-or-leave-it version of Christianity the wave of the future? Or is America big enough to embrace a growing multiplicity of ethno-religious traditions?”

ROBERT WUTHNOW

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

“Fascinating. . . . Insightfully revealing the challenges of recreating a religious culture thousands of miles from its origin, adapting to an increasingly global and diasporic community, and retaining among the second generation an identity with a religious culture that appears backward and insular compared to its bigger, flashier, and more racially integrated counterpart.”


JERRY Z. PARK

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

“A model for how to do sociological and ethnographic work within immigrant communities that remain in robust connection to their countries of origin, even as they try to find their footing in their new home. A must read for all who seek to understand the transformation of American religious life under the pressures of migration and globalization!”

JOHN J. THATAMANIL

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



This book exposes the profound impact American evangelicalism is having on the religious lives of contemporary Christian immigrants, and the pressures immigrant churches face to incorporate evangelical worship styles, often at the expense of maintaining their ethnic character and support systems. Most interestingly, it shows that the integration patterns of post-1965 Christian immigrants and their descendants have essentially reversed earlier models. While immigrants from Europe and their children were expected to shed their ethnic identities to become Americans, in the sphere of religion, they could maintain their ethnic traditions within American denominations. This book shows that members of the contemporary second generation are incorporating into U.S. society by maintaining their ethnic identities in secular contexts but are adopting a de-ethnicized religious identity and practice. In particular, many are gravitating toward evangelical megachurches.

Drawing on multi-site research in the U.S. and India, this book also provides a global perspective on religion, demonstrating the variety of ways in which transnational processes affect religious organizations and their members, and how forces of globalization, from the period of colonialism to contemporary out-migration, have brought tremendous changes among Christian communities in the Global South.

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