

The Editor

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What happens when people of different cultural, religious, political and social backgrounds live in close contact with each other? This volume discusses the concept of »contact zones«, defining them both as spaces where people of different backgrounds actually met and as »imagined contact zones« between European Christians and those living abroad who insisted on forming one community and thus exchanged ideas. Finally, contact zones are considered as »personalised contact zones« in individuals who transcended boundaries and integrated different backgrounds and attitudes. The volume focuses on the encounter between European missionaries and indigenous people and aims to illuminate how life in a contact zone changed concepts, attitudes and practices. The chapters give examples from nearly all world regions from early modern times to the middle of the twentieth century. Contributors are Judith Becker, Jeffrey Cox, Sabine Hübner, Felicity Jensz, Thoralf Klein, Andreas Köller, Andreas Nehring, Stefan Rinke, Mrinalini Sebastian, Rosemary Seton, Heather J. Sharkey, Michael Sievernich, Brian Stanley, Katharina Stornig and Peter James Yoder.