
Editor's Introduction to the Winter 2020 Issue: A Call for Papers

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The editors of CRDA will continue to consider all contributions on the many and varied topics of interest to the Christian RDA community (Relief, Development, and Advocacy), but there are two topics we encourage you to consider for the near future.

First, the opening article in this issue tackles the question of how to be faithful in our practices of monitoring and evaluation (M&E). While a great start, the article only scratches the surface of what needs to become a mutually enriching conversation on how Christian faith impacts our practices of M&E. Many Christians in the RDA community are involved with M&E. The authors of this article and the editors of CRDA invite M&E practitioners and theorists to share their experiences and reflections. Such topics as theological paradigms, objectives, indicators, methods, strategies, and case studies are all on the table. Contributions on the topic may generally agree with the framework presented in the article, but that is not required. The overall goal is for us to learn from each other in a process that helps us be faithful to God in our efforts to serve our vulnerable neighbors and ultimately to honor, love, and serve God. If your organization is working with something innovative or especially helpful in M&E, please share it with the rest of us.

Second, in these early days of the journal, we'd like to hear from you on what you see as the leading edges in RDA for Christian research and reflection in coming years. Put simply, what particular theories, topics, and/or issues should Christian RDA academics and practitioners be thinking about, researching, discussing, or commenting on? The general idea would be to

- 1) identify the issues you think Christians should be addressing in the contemporary context,
- 2) explain why these need our attention, both in terms of what's happening in the world (or in the RDA professional community) and what Christians are called to care about, and
- 3) give some sense of what Christians might have to say about these issues and what new research we might engage.

Not meant to be an exhaustive list, here are some questions that come to mind:

- How do Christians approach RDA differently than others, and how or why does that matter?
- What RDA theories need to be addressed or critiqued explicitly from a Christian perspective?
- What methods and practices in RDA need to be evaluated from a Christian perspective?
- Do Christians need their own RDA theories and practices?
- To borrow a turn of phrase from Dena Freeman, does the world need Christians doing development or should we be doing Christian development?
- What questions or issues have contemporary RDA theories and practices not addressed as well as Christians might be able to?
- On what controversial issues or world trends have Christian views, especially as they relate to RDA, not been adequately shaped or voiced (e.g. race and ethnicity, gender, climate, citizenship, religious diversity, spirituality, global health, sexuality and family, immigration, urbanization, democracy, and many more)
- What wisdom do Christians have on what some have called "the development enterprise?"

Papers in this category, what we've been calling "mini white papers," can be anywhere from 2000 to 6000 words. They can be submitted through normal online channels at the website. If you'd like to consult with the editor about your ideas, please send an email to Roland Hoksbergen at hoksro@calvin.edu.