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Neo-Pentecostal Global Networks and Politics of Compassion for the City: The Case of Hillsong Church Amsterdam

In spite of modern views on urbanization and secularization, global cities are breeding grounds for fast growing hip and media savvy Pentecostal (mega)churches. Key features of these churches are their large size, growth-oriented vision, the integration of digital media technologies in their practices, and global networked organizational structures. Media saturated megachurches in the Western world are the center of global religious networks and they successfully 'franchise' new churches in global cities. Different from migrant churches, these Pentecostal churches foster a cosmopolitan consumerist lifestyle.

In this paper I will discuss the case of Hillsong Amsterdam, initiated by and part of the Hillsong megachurch-network from Sydney Australia. Key question for this paper is: how do churches like Hillsong Amsterdam relate to the city and in what ways are they socially engaged in the local urban context through their practices?

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