

**Proposal for the IAMS conference 2020**  
**Study Group – Christian Communities and Mission**

*James Fox-Robinson*

**A dialogue between contemplative spiritual practice and contemporary models of mission within the framework of a Franciscan standpoint epistemology.**

My proposal is to share part of my MA dissertation which will be in narrative form. My research uses contemplation and action as conversation partners and places them on a pilgrimage to visit places called Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. The characters they meet in these places are composite characters designed from the data I collected during my research with both traditional and new monastic communities. The resulting narrative should speak to Christian communities who are missional but not engaging in contemplative practice as well as those communities who are contemplative but struggling to be missional in a relevant way in our current time and culture.

My dissertation brings together the often academically under represented monastic practices of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience and contemporary models of mission as described by Stephen Bevans and others. I believe this proposal will bring a creative addition to the Christian Communities and Mission Study Group. The narrative will explore vulnerability as I seek to encourage the reader to be self-critical of their missional practice. Vulnerability is also an integral part of monastic practice so it will be embedded deeply in the composite characters. The resulting dialogue will speak into our need to avoid exploiting vulnerabilities while partaking in missional activity.