

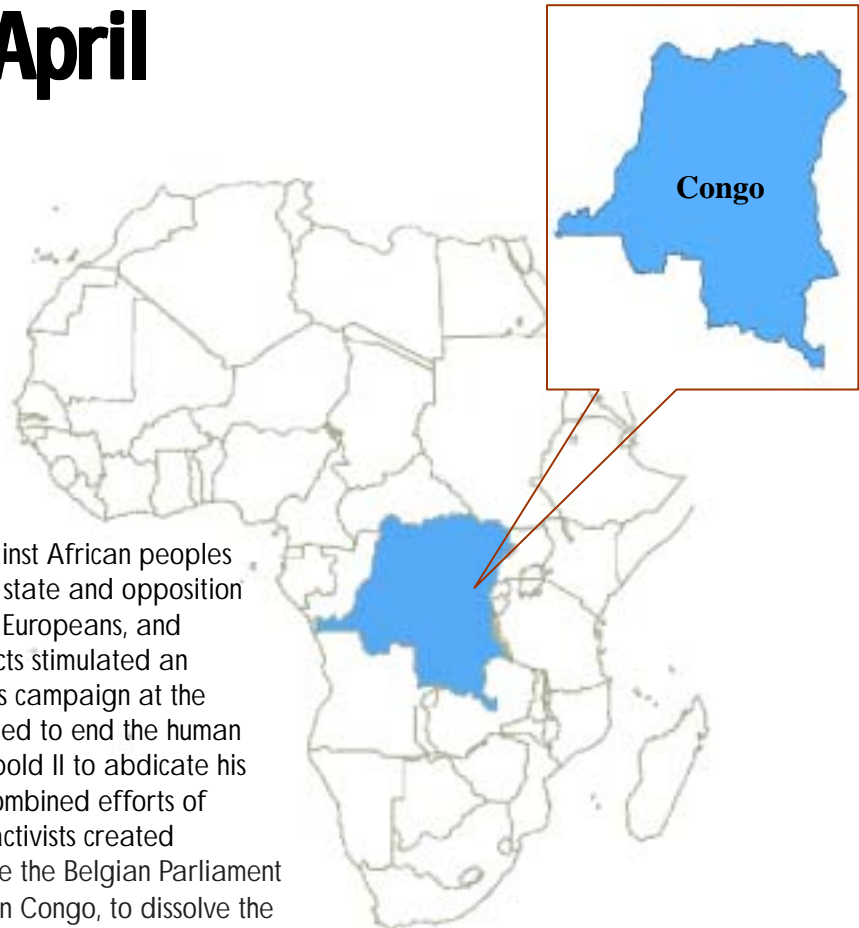
# Human Rights Atrocities and the Ambiguities of the “Missionary Position”:

*The Case of the Disciples of Christ Congo Mission (DCCM) in the Congo Free State*

**Thursday, 4 April**

**2:30 p.m.**

**ASH 279**



The history of the Congo Free State (1885-1908) includes atrocities against African peoples committed by agents of the colonial state and opposition to atrocities on the part of Africans, Europeans, and Americans. These state-sponsored acts stimulated an organized international human rights campaign at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, intended to end the human rights abuses and to force King Leopold II to abdicate his rights to administer the state. The combined efforts of outspoken missionaries and secular activists created sufficient diplomatic pressure to force the Belgian Parliament to relieve Leopold II of his holdings in Congo, to dissolve the Congo Free State as a legal entity, and to begin a process of reform under the Belgian Congo in 1908.



**Paul Allen Williams** was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His research on this topic has taken him back to the Congo in addition to doing archival research in North America. A first year Visiting Assistant Professor at UNOmaha, he has taught African Religions, Christian Religion, and Introduction to World Religions. Raised in Texas, he earned a BA from the University of Texas at Austin and an MAR from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest. His Ph.D. is from the University of Chicago where he studied the History of Religions, especially African Religions, Buddhism and the History of Christianity.

A UNOmaha Department of Philosophy and Religion Lecture.