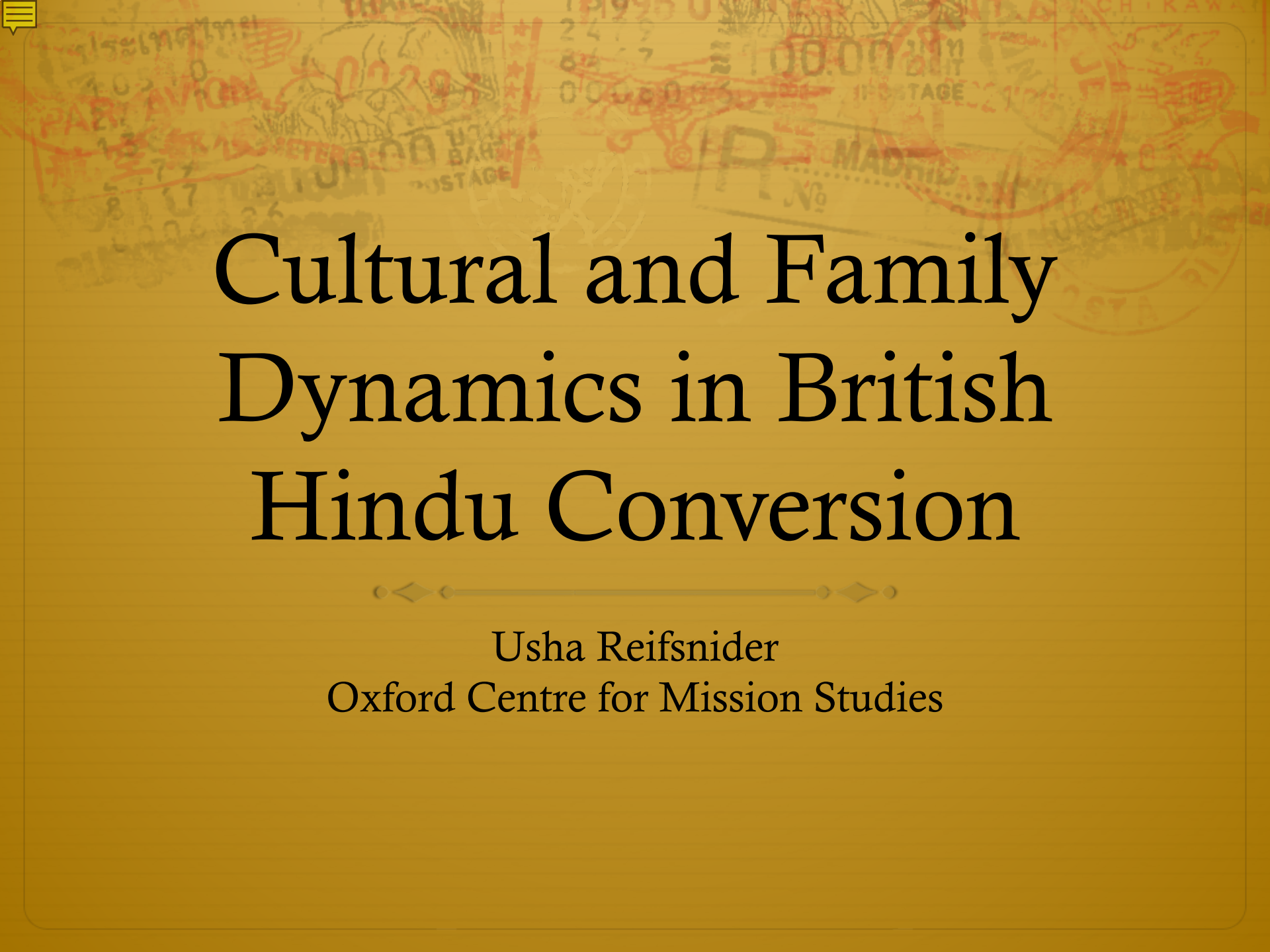


My Family



My Family



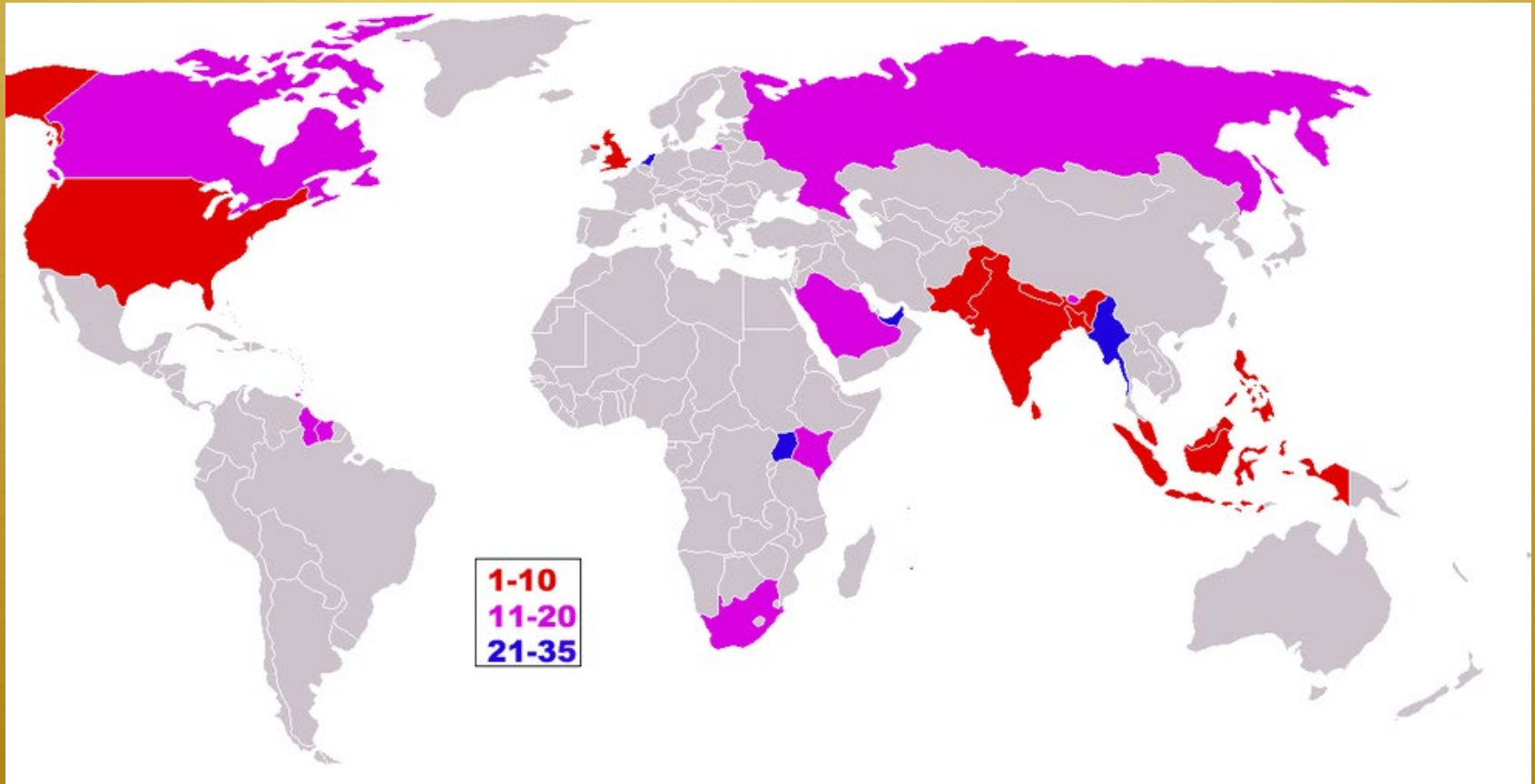


Cultural and Family Dynamics in British Hindu Conversion

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Where Hindus Live





The Gulf



Magnified below

MYANMAR
(formerly
Burma)

SOCOTRA
(to Yemen)

UGANDA

KENYA

Lake Victoria

MALAYSIA

SINGAPORE

TANZANIA

ZANZIBAR

INDIAN
OCEAN

Perceptions of 'Other'




Christians → Hindus

- Christianity replaces Hinduism
- Not logical
- Multiple Gods
- Reincarnation
- Caste
- Poverty Stricken

Hindus → Christians

- White Mans Religion
- Rejection of Culture
- Rejection of Family
- Rejection of Morality
- No consequences
- Not Poverty Stricken

Definitions of Hinduism



- ✧ From a colonial and postcolonial understanding focus on the perceived differences between British Christian culture and it's initial observations of the people of the region.
- ✧ The three most significant differences that continue to define Hinduism are multiple gods, the caste system and reincarnation.
- ✧ These continue to inform the evangelism and discipleship Hindu peoples around the world.

Hinduism in Migration



- ✦ Where did they go?
- ✦ How did they come to Britain?
- ✦ How do they fit in?
- ✦ How has their understanding of Christianity changed?

Hinduism in Britain



- ✧ Swami Narayan was born under British Rule
- ✧ Aware of difficulties of the time.
- ✧ Met British dignitaries and missionaries
- ✧ Swami Narayan and the New Testament
- ✧ Most British Gujarati know little about Swami Narayan
- ✧ Mother Teresa at Shree Sanatan Mandir Ealing Rd.
London

Basic Hindu Practice



- ✧ Text can be factual or mythical
- ✧ Being a Hindu is based on birth
- ✧ Conversion is hard to comprehend
- ✧ Dharma- personal religious duty
- ✧ Karma- consequences of action
- ✧ Arth – the value/worthiness of your life
- ✧ Moksh- final place of liberation

British Hindus to British Christianity

- ✦ Christian culture heavily influences education.
- ✦ Hindus have no objection due to their own understanding of their practices
- ✦ Hindus have little problem in listening, talking, and praying with Christians.
- ✦ Hindus feel honoured to be asked to come to church at Christmas, Easter and many other occasions.

British Christianity to British Gujarati

- ✧ Individual conversion is the only way.
- ✧ Regular church attendance is proof of commitment.
- ✧ Conversion is a binary.
- ✧ Conversion means immediate change in culture.
- ✧ The church family replaces the Gujarati family.

Rakshaben



- ✧ Common story
- ✧ Their testimony is somewhat sensationalised
- ✧ Discipleship is not always realistic or sensitive.
- ✧ Isolates families
- ✧ Strengthens boundaries

Priti



- ✧ Slow journey
- ✧ Church people are unsure
- ✧ Insider/outsider conversations
- ✧ Progress is non sequential
- ✧ On going effort

Conclusion



- ✦ Seek long term relationship with British Gujarati families
- ✦ Avoid comparison and orientalism
- ✦ Look beyond conversion to broad influence
- ✦ Welcome ideas of community that may not 'appear to be opportunities for evangelism.