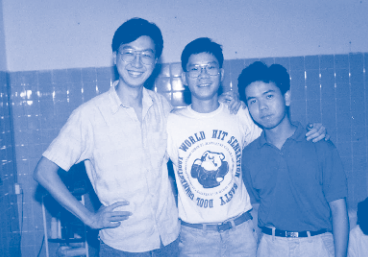




神學院通訊

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Reflections on my life journey & experience in Hong Kong and DSCCC

Chananporn "Oan" Jaisaodee

McGilvary College of Divinity (MCD), Payap University (PYU)

Greetings. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My name is Chananporn "Oan" Jaisaodee. I am a faculty member of McGilvary College of Divinity (MCD), Payap University (PYU), located in Chiang Mai, the Northern province of Thailand. I teach courses in the field of Christian education and its related subjects. Besides teaching full-time at MCD, I also serve in a pastoral ministry at Nong Bua Sam church, a local church in a small village in Chiang Mai.

By God's grace and the support of so many people, I was blessed to receive theological education from both Thailand and the United States. I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and a Bachelor of Theology (B.A. & B.Th.) and a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from the McGilvary College of Divinity. I received a Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE) from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE) and earned a Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) and a Ph.D. in Practical Theology with an emphasis on Christian Education from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Through my theological education and training, I was introduced to a new way of thinking about practical theology. First of all, practical theology is not applied theology or the study of theology for the purpose of applying it to real life. Instead, practical theology is a form of theological reflection and interpretation that is grounded in the life of the church. It explores and shapes theories and practices that aim for social transformation.

This process takes place when people pay attention to what is going on around them, are involved in social issues, interpret and reflect on their particular situations to discern what God requires them to do, and come up with concrete responses to the situations. Without a doubt, practical theology is inherently interdisciplinary, bringing theology into conversation with other fields. It is an area or discipline of theology whose subject matter is Christian practice and whose purpose is to bring theological criteria to bear on contemporary situations and realms of individual and social action.

Living in a country that has a small number of Christians and is still deeply rooted in patriarchal culture, I have felt God charging me with the responsibility to advocate for Thai women and to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to others. I am particularly interested in the role of the church in providing guidance for the transformation of gender roles in Thai

society. I would also like to encourage the Thai church to promote equal companionship between men and women and explore some possible actions to help transform gender practices in Thai society and the church community.

My greatest passion is to strengthen Thai Christians, especially Thai Christian women, in their spiritual formation. Because spiritual or faith formation is always connected to the lives of people and the community in which they are a part, I would like to encourage the Thai church to empower women in their struggles, provide a safe space for them to speak out, enable them to share their life stories, and assist them in deepening their relationship with God. This passion and interest emerged out of and was inspired by my belief that being a Christian is not about choosing a religious belief but about choosing a way of living — a Christian life. It is the way of living that follows what Jesus Christ did — putting God's love into actions.

My participation in the 2017-2018 United Board Fellows Program has led me to Hong Kong. This program is arranged by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia to prepare mid-career faculty and administrators for future leadership in their home universities and colleges in Asia. I have been blessed to be one among twenty Fellows from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Thailand, South Korea, PR China, Vietnam, and Taiwan, chosen to participate in the program. Over the course of the program year, Fellows attend a three-week intensive Summer Institute at Harvard University in the United States in July 2017; a two-to-four-month placement at an Asian higher education; and a one-week leadership seminar in Asia in June 2018.

I was very pleased to be informed by the United Board that my Asia Placement would take place in Hong Kong at Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) from mid September to early December 2017, and since my academic field is practical theology, the United Board has paired me up with the Divinity School of Chung Chi College (DSCCC). I have been very thankful for Prof. Simon Kwan, who has generously agreed to serve as my mentor during my placement.

My main goal for my learning during the three-month Asia Placement was to craft and develop my own leadership skills. The topics or areas that I was particularly interested in learning about were whole person education, curriculum design and development, teaching and administration, and leadership and management skills. I also wanted to observe the academic and community life of the university, as well as explore and participate in other learning opportunities, such as classes, public lectures, campus and community events, and dialogues.

By the help and supervision of my mentor, Prof. Kwan, I was able to connect and set up interviews with key administrators or staff in the Divinity School, Chung Chi College, and also Chinese University of Hong Kong. Through my interviews and interactions with various people, I gained knowledge and broadened my understanding in areas such as higher education management and leadership, academic departments, admissions, quality assurance and teaching learning enhancement, student services and student life, academic research, international affairs, institutional advancement, and university leadership.

Through my interviews, observation, and gathering of information, I see the importance of higher education institutions implementing whole person education. After all, the main task for university and college education is to develop our students as whole beings. Leaders and teachers must not forget that education is more than just providing students with professional knowledge. We must aim to foster spiritual, intellectual, humane social integrity, perseverance, and a sense of responsibility for themselves and others.

What I learned and gained from participating in the community life of DSCCC and sharing experiences with some faculty members, administrative staff, and students has reinforced my vision in doing theological education in Asia, which emphasizes that theological education is a form of faith formation. To do theological education, we must always keep in mind that we must not make a claim to know God completely and to provide answers to every question. Instead, we must give room for students





to ask questions and ponder those questions together. Furthermore, in addition to fostering critical thinking and theological reflection in students, we must expose our students to Asian sources of wisdom, cultures, and religions, and encourage them to be in dialogue with one another and with people from other faiths.

As a form of faith formation, theological education acknowledges a collaborative divine-human interaction. The teaching ministry of the church and seminary must encourage, form, re-form, and enable people to live a life of faith in response to what the triune God has done, is doing, and will do. We, church leaders and seminary educators, must provide teaching that helps individuals become sensitive to and cooperative with the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives and discern the gospel they are called to embody, as followers of Christ, in their own time and place.

The United Board Fellows Program has given me exceptional opportunities to be equipped to be a better educator and leader in my own context. I am confident that my placement at DSCCC, CUHK plays an important role in equipping me for my teaching ministry and future service at MCD and PYU. Participation in this program also allows me to seek opportunities to build networks and establish future collaborations with DSCCC, CUHK and others institutions, as well as local churches in Hong Kong.

I feel blessed to have had this time of learning and exposure in Hong Kong. To me, Hong Kong is a vibrant and fascinating city with so much to offer. It has a certain charm to it, a combination of old and new, amazing architecture and structures, beautiful natural scenery, a great diversity of people, an outstanding education system, and wonderful resources in religious and cultural studies. Hong Kong embraces an excellent world-class literary festival, a top-notch Arts festival, many cultural and educational activities, concerts, theatre, and sporting events. I think that's what makes Hong Kong special. I am also impressed with the

public transportation and security systems in Hong Kong. It is probably one of the safest cities in the world. Moreover, the people of Hong Kong are very friendly and helpful.

I was touched by the kindness and hospitality of many people in DSCCC. I am thankful for Dr. Tobias Brander who graciously picked me up at the airport and welcomed me to his home. He and his family have made me feel at home right from the start. I am grateful for my mentor, Prof. Simon Kwan, who warmly welcomed me and gave me a helpful introduction to CUHK and DSCCC. Within the first few days of my arrival, I was able to find my way around the campus by the kind assistance of the United Board staff and DSCCC administrative personnel, as well as through the CUHK Mobile application, which provides campus information and latest news to students, staff, alumni and visiting guests.

I cherish all of the conversations, meals, and fellowship times that I shared with everyone here at DSCCC. Words cannot explain how much I appreciate the friendships, encouragement, sharing of experiences, and kind support that I received from many people during my stay in Hong Kong. Thank you very much for showing God's love to me in many ways, and for being such blessings in my life.

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to the United Board of Higher Education in Asia for providing me with this great opportunity of learning. I am grateful for the DSCCC community for warmly welcoming me into the family, providing an educational and supportive environment for me, and allowing me to share my reflections in this newsletter.

Even though my Asia Placement in Hong Kong has ended, the friendships and wonderful memories that were built here will always remain closely in my heart. As I continue to learn, develop, and discern what God has in store for me, I hope and pray for future collaboration between DSCCC and MCD. May God bless you and your ministry abundantly.

Stephen Chan Unduplicable



The graduation ceremony of the class of 2017 was held last November. Prof. Stephen Chan, alumnus, of B.D. 1989, honoured the occasion as speaker. He had furthered his studies in the U.S. and was awarded M.A. and Ph.D. by the University of Chicago. Since 1996, he has been teaching in its Theology and Religious Studies Department. As Associate Professor, he specialises in World Religions and Theology.

Shanghai and Chaozhou Ancestry

Stephen's father was a marine captain from Chaozhou and on the teaching staff of Ocean University. In 1949, with the victory of the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Republic of China came into being. The marine captain fled to Keelung, Taiwan, where he met his future wife.

In 1959. Stephen was born of the couple. Subsequent moves found him in Hong Kong in 1967 and the U.S. in 1989. According to Stephen, his mother was an active participant of the stock market, especially the futures. Charts and figures were all over at the Chan home. "I heard about Chicago from my mother, where the world's biggest futures market operates."

Unable to accept the language policies of Taiwan schools, Stephen's father moved the family to Hong Kong. He wanted his son to learn English rather than only Japanese and Chinese. So one day, thinking he was being taken to a summer school, Stephen found himself in Hong Kong instead, with only a few books with him. "I always sang Taiwanese songs and saluted the Republic of China flag with the attributes of Blue Sky, White Sun and a Wholly Red Earth. And now the U.S., for nearly 30 years. I feel indifferent to mainland China." These multiple identities construct the present Stephen.

Education background

American evangelist Billy Graham came to Hong Kong in 1975. Stephen was converted in one of his rallies. A summer camp experience led to deep commitment to God's service full time. With only a high school certificate, Stephen had to content

himself with the goal of being a ministry worker and attending a few seminary extension courses. "At the time, theology courses are mostly designed for university graduates, not secondary school finishers." To equip himself, he began, on his own, reading the works of Kant, Plato and Augustine. And, by the time he was admitted to the Theology Division of Chung Chi College, he had finished reading all the publications of its teachers, including their dissertations.

The list of theological institutions Stephen has associated with is long: a bible school, China Graduate School of Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, and the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. "In total, I have taken church history 4 times and systematic theology 3 times, each with different perspectives of course."

"There is no correlation between theological studies and personal beliefs. I came from a church with fundamentalist and evangelical background. But it was not difficult of me to choose coming to Chung Chi." He half jokingly talked about his need to learn new things and to deal with denominational differences. "My teachers labelled me a spy."

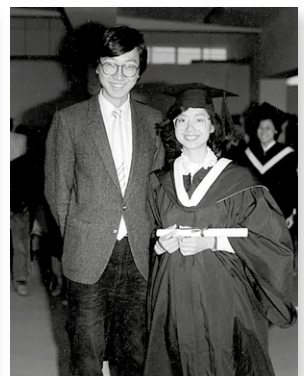
Stephen was no different from students of today. He took courses offered by renowned professors and stayed away from those other students avoided. Looking back, he now sees



Stephen met Benjamin Chan (M Div 88) in the U.S.



Stephen and his wife Catherine enjoyed their days in Chung Chi.



that had he and his peers been more open-minded, students could have benefitted much more from teachers, one and all. "Old Testament Studies was the subject I had wanted to escape from. As it turned out, Prof. Archie C.C. Lee turned me around and enabled me to see my blind spots." As alumnus, Stephen advised students not to have prejudice towards any teachers or subjects. "Be open. Stay curious."

Stephen observed most students want to study with professors whose expertise and interests parallel their own, believing that in this way, students could get help and benefit more directly and easily, particularly with their dissertations. But that was not his experience at the University of Chicago, and fortunately so, Stephen observes. "Expect the unexpected, both spiritually and academically. The subject or field you looked down upon might well become your future research interest or the breakthrough point of your dissertation." Stephen encouraged students to explore beyond set boundaries.

Theological studies in Chung Chi and the University of Chicago

"Dr. Daniel Chow practised Tai Chi every day outside the Theology Building. I took advantage of it to discuss with him minute issues of the

synoptic gospels. The small scale of the Theological Division in the 1980s flourished teacher-student ties. This was also the case with Chicago. For me, the Divinity School of Chicago University is an extended version of Chung Chi." Stephen credited the Chung Chi teaching approaches with preparing him for further studies in Chicago.

Stephen is nostalgic of his doctoral studies days. "We were ten with Prof. David Tracy and met every Monday in his home to report on current findings. The Professor would always had 2-3 French cakes there with 5-10 bottles of red and white wine. We could hardly remember what everyone had said by the time we finished, because we all got drunk." Doctoral students were assigned by the professor specific topics like: Holy Spirit, Christology, in the works of Catholic and Protestant scholars and philosophers, for example: Karl Rahner, Bernard Lonergan, Johann Baptist Metz, Paul Ricoeur, Jurgen Habermas, Karl Barth, Paul Tillich, Jurgen Moltmann. "Our reports often shared similarities because we sometimes chose the same scholars dealing with the same topic." With Stephen, the Chicago school essentials are crucial: methodology and the interactions of modern context, theological classics and traditions.

Uniquely Stephen Chan

In the School's 2017 graduation ceremony, Prof. Chan spoke about the uniqueness of Hong Kong society, particularly its hybridity. The speaker at the podium, of course, is no less unique. Originated from Shanghai and Chaozhou, came from a church fundamentalist and evangelical, studied theology in seminaries with multiple denominational background, born in Taiwan, grew up in Hong Kong, studied and worked in the U.S. Like our city, the professor is no less unique.

"Degree. Knowledge. They are not equivalent. The knowledge Dr. Philip Shen acquired throughout his life is far more than the degrees he earned." Herein lies the message Stephen is giving to students: Never stop learning.

*Written by Li Kwong-ping;
polished by Raymond W.M. Fung*



Stephen demolished the toilet in hostel with the help of two beloved brothers in Christ.



Stephen earned his doctoral degree in 1999.

Theology Day 2017

Theology Day Celebration 2017 was held on November 4, 2017 at Chung Chi College Chapel. This year, Theology Day Celebration for Degree Programmes and Diploma Programmes were combined. More than 800 people including guests, friends, pastor workers, teachers, alumni, students and their family members participated in the Thanksgiving Service. It was our honor to have our alumnus, Rev. Prof. Stephen Chan, Associate Professor, Theology and Religious Studies Department, Seattle University, USA to deliver the sermon. In the Service, 84 graduates earned degrees and 32 graduates earned diploma. A total of 78 new students admitted in degree programmes and 5 new students admitted in diploma programmes were welcomed. The Thanksgiving Dinner after the Service was held at a restaurant in Fo Tan and a total of 30 tables were arranged for more than 360 participants to enjoy the dinner.





Conference on "From Conflict to Communion: 500th Anniversary of Church Reformation"



A conference was jointly organized by Divinity School of Chung Chi College (DSCCC), Lutheran Theological Seminary, Holy Spirit Seminary College of Theology & Philosophy, S.K.H. Ming Hua Theological College, Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Christian Council at the chapel of the DSCCC on last November 10, the birth date of Martin Luther to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Church Reformation. There were three sessions including:

1. the church reformation from the historical perspective;
2. theological discussions on *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, (JDDJ)*;
3. the past and future Ecumenical Movement of Hong Kong.

More than 160 teachers and students from different seminaries have participated.



CRYSTAL SCULPTURES OF NESTORIAN STELE

The Chung Chi Class of 1967 presented a gift of two crystal sculptures of Nestorian Stele to the College. They were set up in the College Administration Building and the Chapel of the Divinity School of Chung Chi College respectively.



PAPER TRANSFER CEREMONY

An important Papers Transfer Ceremony on Bishop Ronald O. Hall (1895-1975) Papers was held on July 28, 2017 at the School. The Transfer Agreement was duly signed by Prof. Ying Fuk-tsang, Director of the School and Ms. Louise Jones, the University Librarian. Bishop Hall's Papers were originally donated to the School by Canon Christopher Hall and arranged by Rev. Prof. Lo Lung-kwong. These materials, consist of various correspondence, lectures and preaching note books, photographs and books etc., were transferred to the Library Archival Collection.

The archives link: <http://archives.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/repositories/5/resources/376>

22nd Chuen King Biblical Lectureship: Discipleship and Community in the Johannine Tradition: Old debates and new approaches

Prof. Judith M. Lieu, FBA (Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge) was invited as the guest speaker of the 22nd Chuen King Biblical Lectureship. The biblical lectureship was held on October 22, 2017 with three lectures: lecture 1: The story of Jesus and the story of the disciples; lecture 2: Johannine patterns of community and authority; lecture 3: The politics of the kingdom in a Johannine perspective. Prof. Eric Wong, Prof. Nancy Tan, Dr. Sonia Wong and Dr. Kanny Chou were invited to be the respondents.



Let's CRED it! Devotional Camp 2017



The camp was smoothly accomplished from December 1 to December 3 (Friday to Sunday) in the Chinese YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village. The word "CRED" represents "Christ Calling", "Reflection", "Encounter" and "Dialogue" respectively which provided a valuable opportunity to participants getting to know more about the features of Divinity School of Chung Chi College through interaction with the faculties.



There was a special lecture delivered by Professor Kung Lap-yan in the first evening. Professor Kung emphasized the imbalanced situation when there was rapid growth in economy and technological development, the needs and lives of the low-income group and retired people were usually neglected. Although they were less educated with lower income, they were part of the working force which accelerated the city development. Therefore, their effort and presence should not be ignored. He quoted the Parable of the Lost Sheep to close his remarkable speech. He reminded us the lost sheep might be repelled by the other 99 sheeps, just like the low-income group is not accepted by the society. However, everyone knows Jesus Christ's calling is that people should follow Him, as the shepherd who find the lost sheep. At the same time, the mind of the 99 sheeps should be changed together with the established culture and system. All people should rejoice and welcome the lost sheep being found by the shepherd. Prof. Kung reiterated our mission is not only to take care the low-income group, but also to strive for changing the social system in order to accommodate those who were repelled by the majority, earned lower salary and being not competitive.



Professor Simon S.M. Kwan who is the Acting Director presented a brief introduction about our Divinity School after Prof. Kung's special talk. Participants were then assigned into various sub-groups for discussion and reflection before ending the first day activity. There was a Taize prayer session in the Saturday morning which was followed by two model lectures about Biblical Studies and Theology. They were respectively conducted by Prof. Alex H. H. Ip and Prof. Francis Yip while individual consultations with our Professors were provided in the afternoon so as to let the participants to obtain more programme information and advice. In the Saturday evening, three alumni were invited to give sharing to the participants. They were Rev. Lee Siu-mei (07BD), Mr. Lam Kwong-hung (14MDiv), and Miss Cecilia Ho (07MACS) who shared their joys and difficulties they encountered during their study in DSCCC.



The camp ended with a Sunday Sermon when participants were invited to write their reflection on a heart-shaped paper card and put them in front of the cross which symbolized they were willing to devote their heart to God.

Activities of Pastoral Programme

Theology Sunday 2017

Teachers and students of the Divinity School attended the "Theology Sunday 2017" which took place at Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (HKCCCC) and Methodist Church Hong Kong in March and June 2017 respectively. Our School was invited by 20 churches to conduct "Theology Sunday 2017" and to share and promote theology education in these churches.

A Summer Camp for Sacred Music and Worship

A camp jointly organized by Hong Kong Church Music Association, the Chaplain's Office, Chung Chi College and our School was held during August 6-11, 2017 at the Chapel of Chung Chi College and President Chi-tung Yung Memorial Building.

The 11th Annual Pastoral Conference

The Annual Pastoral Conference with the theme "Spirituality in Context" was conducted from September 26-27, 2017 at Wing Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church. A number of local pastors and theological scholars were invited to share with the participants their views and opinions in the conference.

Resource Centre for Contemporary Christian Studies (RCCCS)

The 15th Summer Academic Exchange Programme was held from 23 July to 19 August 2017 for Master Degree or Doctoral Degree students in Christian Studies from Mainland China. For the first two weeks, 47 participants attended intensive lectures to ground their knowledge on Christianity. These lectures included "Introduction to Old/New Testament" and "Introduction to Christian Ethics and Dogmatics". The next two weeks were for individual supervision.



Centre for Quality-Life Education (CQLE)

Centre for Quality-Life Education and LPD Educational Foundation co-organized the 7th Youth Conference on "Global and Local on July 22, 2017 in LT3 Yasumoto International Academic Park. Over 150 people joined the event. The Youth Conference aims at improving the Critical Thinking and self-reflection on the societies for Form 4 to 6 students through public formal debate.

The Centre for Christian Studies

1. Prof. Lau Zhi-qing, Anyang Normal University in Henang, presented a Public Lecture on “Research on the History and Future of Catholic dioceses in China” on August 1, 2017. It was co-organized by the CCS and Universities Service Centre for China Studies.



2. In commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of Church Reformation, Prof. Francis C.W. Yip, Director of CCS, delivered a public lecture on “The Reformation roots of modern culture” on October 22, 2017 at the Tsim Sha Tsui book centre of the Commercial Press. The public lecture was co-organized by CCS, Divinity School of Chung Chi College, and the Commercial Press (HK). Yip presented how certain features of modernity had its origins in the Protestant Reformation. Over 70 people joined the event.

3. A workshop on “Encountering the Word” co-organized by the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, CCS, and Lutheran Theological Seminary was held at the Ming Cheh Hall, Tao Fong Shan on November 18, 2017. Dr. Wong Pui-fong, Assistant Professor at LTS, led the workshop. About 30 people joined the event.

4. Prof. Ying Fuk-tsang, Associate Director of CCS and Director of the Divinity School, delivered a public lecture on “The 1967 Riot and Christianity in Hong Kong” on November 27, 2017 to present the findings from his research. About 140 people attended the lecture, which was co-organized by CCS and the Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion and Culture.



5. An international Symposium on Dignity, Morality and Rights: An Integration of Christian Theology, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Chinese-Western Cross-cultural Dialogue, co-organized by the Institute of Sino-Christian Studies, Hong Kong, and CCS, CUHK was held on November 30 to December 1, 2017 in Rm 220 Fung King Hey Building and Conference Hall, Tao Fong Shan. Topics of the six sessions included 1. Law: Human Dignity and Human Rights; 2. Religious Rights, Public Theology and Political Values; 3. Dignity, Politics and Theology; 4. Rights Practice: Society and State; 5. Virtue, Human Rights, and Public Sphere and 6. Responsibility, Justice, and Public Issues. Twelve scholars from various parts of the world presented their papers (including Robin Lovin, Sebastian Kim, Lai Pan-chiu, Kung Lap-yan, Pauline Kollontai, Kjetil Fretheim, Hu Jieren), and about 50 people joined the symposium.

KAIROS ACADEMY FOR THEOLOGY AND LIFE FORMATION (KAIROS)

Thanksgiving Commencement Ceremony

A thanksgiving commencement ceremony for diploma students was held on August 28, 2017 at our activity room. About 20 students and teachers joined the ceremony. After the ceremony, a briefing and sharing session was held for teachers and students.

Suspension of admission for Advanced Diploma Programme in Biblical Studies

Due to revamp of diploma programmes, the admission of Advanced Diploma Programme in Biblical Studies is suspended in academic year 2017-2018. This programme will be phased out on September 1, 2019. Sufficient courses will be offered to remaining students within their normative study period. The new sub-degree programmes are under final review and have been endorsed by Senate Committee in SPCEP and Senate APC.

THE CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTRE ON CHINESE RELIGION AND CULTURE (CSCCRC) AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA (SSHCC)

Symposium on the History of Christianity in Modern China

The 10th International Symposium on the History of Christianity in Modern China "The Chinese Church during the Civil War Period (1945-52)" was held from 16 to 17 June 2017 at Hong Kong Baptist University. Prof. Philip Wickeri, Professor of Church History, S.K.H. Ming Hua Theological College, delivered a keynote speech "Theology in Revolution: The Intellectual Odyssey of T. C. Chao, 1945-1952". Prof. Wang Chen-Main, Graduate Institute of History, National Central University, delivered another keynote speech "Analysis on Political perspectives of Christian Council in Taiwan".

Shantou University – The Chinese University of Hong Kong Joint Center for Christian Studies:

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Shantou University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong on establishment of Shantou University–The Chinese University of Hong Kong Joint Centre for Christian Studies has expired on September 6, 2017. The Centre has completed its mission and is no longer in operation.

New Teacher Introduction

Visiting Scholar

Dr. Jayeel Cornelio

My name is Jayeel Cornelio, a visiting professor at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College. I am also an editor of *Social Sciences and Missions*, an international journal published by Brill. My home base is the Ateneo de Manila University, where I am Associate Professor and the Director of its Development Studies Program. I have held visiting posts at Lancaster University in England, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu in Romania, and the Mindanao State University in Iligan. My Ph.D. in Sociology is from the National University of Singapore where I received a doctoral grant from the Asia Research Institute. From Singapore I moved to Germany, which was my home for two years as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity.



My research is pretty extensive. Most of it revolves around religious issues. The approach I take is sociological, which is very useful in discovering many hidden ideas. For example, many of us might think that young people are losing the faith but there is more to their religiosity than meets the eye. My first book, which was published by Routledge in 2016, asks what it means to be Catholic to Filipino youth today. While many young people might no longer go to church to attend Mass, they would still insist that they are very Catholic. This is because they believe that doing good to others, even without religious practice, is being true to their faith. For them, right living is more important than right believing. Over the years my projects have delved into a broad range of topics such as urban religion, religious response to disaster, and the relationship between religion and Nationalism.

But I am not yet done! This year is a harvest in terms of new projects. For example, I got a research grant from the European Union to examine prosperity preaching in Southeast Asia. A grant from the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines will also allow me to conduct interviews about being gay and Christian in the country. As you might know, Philippine population is predominantly Catholic. Prevailing views toward homosexuality might be changing already. Finally, I also received a grant from the Department of Science and Technology to investigate young people's attitudes towards religion and violence in the Philippines. The grant is tied to a major award I received in 2017 as one of the eight Outstanding Young Scientists of the country.

All these projects, however, have a bigger horizon for me. These studies are important to help other people make sense of issues and the changes that are taking place around them. This is why I am a regular columnist for Rappler, which is one of the biggest online news websites in the Philippines. Most of the time I write about religious and political concerns. An issue that is close to my heart, for example, is religious violence. At the same time, my projects inform my teaching. Being in the classroom, to me, is a privilege because not only do I get to share my own ideas. I also learn from students. Students in my course* have taught me a great deal about the challenges of doing ministry in China, Hong Kong, and Myanmar.

Let me end by taking the opportunity to thank colleagues and students at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College for their warmth and hospitality. The interactions I have here are not only intellectually rich. They are inspiring because their academic pursuits are married to deep social engagements whether they are in the church, the community, or even the prison. Such commitments are, in my view, the whole point of learning.

* THEO5956

Special Topics on Pastoral Studies and Counseling I: Sociological Perspectives on Pastoral Ministry.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Director in News

Prof. Ying Fuk-tsang was invited to give a presentation at the World Federation of Chinese Methodist Churches (WFCMC) 7th Mission Conference. The conference theme is "Holistic Mission — From Generation to Generation", held in Hong Kong, from July 14 to 15, 2017.

Prof. Ying is on sabbatical leave from September 1, 2017 to August 2018. He was invited as a Visiting Scholar in Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica and Graduate Institute of Religious Studies, National Chêngchi University.

Prof. Ying presented a paper entitled "Facing Turbulent Times: Hong Kong Christianity and 1967 Riots" at the Reformation 500 and Social Transformation Seminar held by Grace Christian Church (PCA), US, from September 22 to 24, 2017.

Prof. Ying was invited to Taiwan to give a public lecture on "Working Underground: Communist-Christian in the KMT-CCP Civil War" at the Graduate School of Religion, Chung Yuan Christian University on October 24, 2017.

Prof. Ying was invited to Taiwan to give a public lecture on "Critical Issues in the Study of Christianity in Contemporary China: A Sociological Perspective" at the Graduate Institute of Religious Studies, National Chengchi University on October 26, 2017.

Prof. Ying was invited to Taiwan on November 11, 2017 to deliver the public speech "Anti-Rightist Campaign and Christianity in China". On November 21, he was invited by National Chengchi University Graduate Institute of Religious Studies to deliver a talk on "Religious policies under Xi Jinping's Leadership". From November 23 to 25, he presented paper "May Fourth Movement and the Chinese Christianity" in a conference about "May Fourth Movement and the Development of Regions of China" organized by the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica.

Teachers in News

Prof. Simon S. M. Kwan

Prof. Kwan has been appointed by the Theological Council as the Acting Director for ten months beginning September 1, 2017, during the sabbatical leave of Prof. Ying Fuk-tsang.

Prof. Simon Kwan was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the 2017 conference of the British and Irish Association of Practical Theology. The conference theme is "'From Every Tribe, and Tongue, and People and Nation.' (Rev.5:9) Voicing Diverse Ethnicities in Practical Theology", held at St. Mary's University, UK, from July 11 to 13, 2017. Title of the speech is "Negotiating the Meaning of Spirituality in Holistic Health Care from a Chinese Perspective."

Prof. Francis C.W. Yip

Prof. Yip was elected as teaching faculty representative at the Theological Council starting from August, 2017.

From May 20 to June 6, Prof. Yip participated, as a Methodist member, in an ecumenical trip to Germany and Italy. Participants included clergy and laity from various churches and traditions, including Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Tsung Tsin Mission, Church of Christ in China, Methodist, and the Salvation Army. The group visited Wittenberg, Augsburg, Trent, and Vatican, where they were received by Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square.

Prof. Yip attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November 2017 at Boston. He responded to four papers presented by scholars at the "The Protestant Reformation in World Christianity: Global Perspectives" of the World Christianity Unit.

Francis was the awardee of the Outstanding Teaching Award 2017 (Faculty of Arts). The Award is to honour teachers for their outstanding accomplishments in teaching and enhancing students' learning in the Faculty.

Prof. Alex H. H. Ip

Prof. Ip was invited to Taiwan to give a lecture on "Theology, Politics, and Economy of Hong Kong after the Handover" at Chi-nan Presbyterian Church on July 17, 2017.

Prof. Ip was invited to Taiwan to give a public lecture on the Book of Philemon at the Graduate School of Religion, Chung Yuan Christian University on July 20, 2017.

Prof. Ip presented a paper entitled "A Christian Response to Conflicting Relationship in a Household" at the 11th Annual Conference of the Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society. The conference theme is "Responses to Conflict in Early Christianity", held at Australian Catholic University, Australia, from September 22 to 24, 2017.

Prof. Ip presented a paper entitled "Foundations for Sociorhetorical Interpretation from Economics Perspective" at 2017 Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings, held in Boston, from November 18 to 21, 2017.

Dr. Christina W. Y. Wong

Dr. Christina Wong was appointed to be an acting warden of Ming Hua Tang, Chung Chi College, from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018.

Dr. Wong was invited to present a paper entitled "Shifting Memories: An Oral History Study of Canton Young Women's Christian Association in the 1940s" at "Remembering Beliefs: The Shifting Worlds of Religion and Faith in Secular Society," the Annual Conference of the Oral History Society in conjunction with Newman University and Leeds Trinity University, at Leeds, UK, from July 14 to 15, 2017.

On behalf of a delegate of the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China, Dr. Wong attended the General Council of World Communion of Reformed Churches at Leipzig, Germany from June 26 to July 7, 2017.

Prof. Nancy N. H. Tan

Prof. Tan attended the "2017 Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting" from August 7 to 11, 2017 at the Humboldt University of Berlin. She presented a paper on "Reading the Story of Tamar and Hong Kong Sex Working Mothers."

Prof. Tan was invited by King's College London to attend "The Society for Old Testament Study Summer Meeting 2017" from 17 to 19 July 2017.

Dr. Marina Xiaojing Wang

Dr. Wang attended 2017 Oxford Workshop on "Historical Legacies of Christianity in East Asia: Bridging a New Generation of Scholars and Scholarship" held by the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco and the China Centre at the University of Oxford from September 19 to 24, 2017. She presented a paper on "'All One in Christ Jesus': Cheng Jingyi and the Quest for Christian Unity in China."

Dr. Wang attended the "Ecclesiastical History Society Annual Summer Conference: Churches and Education" from July 18 to 20 2017 at University of Exeter, UK. She presented a paper on "Western Establishment or Chinese Sovereignty?: The Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College during the Restore Education Rights Movement (1924-1927)."

Prof. Kung Lap-yan

Prof. Kung was invited to Chiang Mai, Thailand to attend the ATESEA Theological Union (ATU) Methodology Seminar and give a lecture on "Public Theology" at Payap University on July 13, 2017.

Staff in News

Dr. Sonia K. Wong has joined our School as Lecturer since August 1, 2017.

Prof. Common L. P. Chan completed his contract as Assistant Professor on August 22, 2017.

Dr. Yuan Hao completed his contract as Post-doctoral Fellow on November 30, 2017.

Congratulations

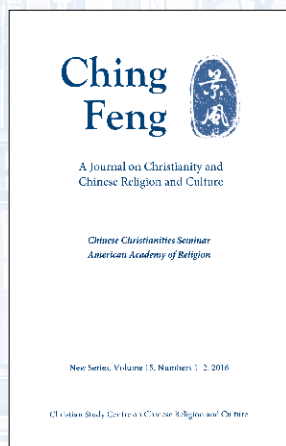
5 members of the School have recently received the University's "15-year Long Service Awards" in recognition of their long years of service at the University. The presentation ceremony was held on December 19, 2017. The recipients are: Mr. Cheung Yiu-cheung, Prof. Francis C. W. Yip, Prof. Simon S.M. Kwan, Prof. Kung Lap-yan and Ms. Anita Luk Siu-ling.

Mr. Zhuang Yangming's (15 BD) son Xinyi was given birth on November 23, 2017. May God bless the baby.

Ms. Judy Chan's (15 D.Th.) doctoral thesis *No Strangers Here* was published by the Pickwick Publications in October 2017.

New Publications

Ching Feng (first published under the title *Quarterly Notes* in 1957) is the organ of the Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion and Culture. The purpose of the journal is to promote critical and innovative investigations into all aspects of the study of Chinese Christianity, Chinese Religions, and Interreligious dialogue between Christianity and Asian Religions.



New Series, Volume 15, Numbers 1–2, 2016

Chinese Christianities Seminar, American Academy of Religion

Introduction to the Special Issue / *Francis Ching-wah Yip*

Union Theological Seminary's Dense Social Network in Twentieth-Century Chinese Christianity / *Christopher D. Sneller*

Ecclesiology from Below: Urbanizing Catholicism in an Urbanizing China / *Stephanie M. Wong*

Moral Minority: The Changing Face of Christian Politics in Post-Sunflower Movement Taiwan / *Chiou Mu-tien*

Historiography and Community Identity: Hong Kong Christians and the Recording of the 2014 Pro-Democracy Movement / *Kang Di*

A Tale of Three Bishops: Mapping the Ideologies of "Chineseness" and "Asian Values" in the Global Anglican Realignment in Vancouver / *Justin K. H. Tse*

Other Articles

巨人愛恨——王明道所認識的倪柝聲 / 邢福增

中西合作的典範——香港宣道會本土化過程研究 / 何明章

Review and Response

Karl Barth and Christian Theology of Religions: An Asian Response to Ensminger / *Paul S. Chung*

Brent Fulton. *China's Urban Christians: A Light that Cannot be Hidden* / *Mary Li Ma*

Rejoinder: Book Review by Dr. Anna Qing Wu / *Maira M. W. Chan-yeung*

New Series, Volume 16, Numbers 1–2, 2017

Festschrift to Professor Lauren F. Pfister

A Life between East and West: Dedication to Professor Lauren F. Pfister / *William Yau-nang Ng*

Consequential Transatlantic Networks Shaped the Polyglot Nature of the Protestant Missionary Enterprise in China / *R. G. Tiedemann*

Richard Wilhelm and His Critics: A New Evaluation / *Wolfgang Kubin*

The Chinese Mission without Jesuits: The Suppression and Restoration of the Society of Jesus in China / *Nicolas Standaert*

東方宗教研究的開創者：詹姆士·理雅各與麥克斯·繆勒 / 孫亦平

Ernst Faber's (1839–1899) *Theories of Human Nature* / *Gad C. Isay*

佛教與基督教論罪惡：評論阿部正雄的比較研究 / 關啟文

淨土祖庭文化及人間淨土觀的實踐 / 吳有能

Free to Obey: Gao Panlong and Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Selflessness, Fate, and Freedom / *Sophia Katz*

Other Article

The Life of Reverend Wong Fook-ping (Huang Fuping 黃福平, 1892–1966): A Testimony of Faith in God and Love for Country / *Terese Wong*

Book Review

Ambrose Mong. *Guns and Gospel: Imperialism and Evangelism in China* / *Joseph Tse-hei Lee*

