

Academic Programs



Retreat Camp for Graduate Students from Mainland China 2007

The fifth Retreat Camp for Graduate Students from Mainland China was launched and organized by ISCS on 3 February 2007. More than thirty students and scholars from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, China Graduate School of Theology and the visiting students at ISCS, were invited to attend the program.



After a brief introduction and some interesting get-to-know social games, the students discussed their experiences, problems and ideas of their research in four different groups. These groups were arranged according to different academic fields and each group was presided over by two experts in that field. The first group was led by Prof. Li Qiuling and Dr. Keith CHAN, focusing on Christian thought and philosophy of religion. The second group focused on history and sociology of religion, led by Prof. SUN Shangyang and Director Daniel YEUNG. The third group concerns the field of biblical studies, led by Prof. CHOONG Chee Pang and Dr. Jason LAM. Prof. ZHAO Lin and Dr. CAO Jing led the fourth group on the studies of religious culture. Students shared their research proposals or papers in each group, generated heated discussions, and made friendly comments. Guest



scholars were invited to share their valuable opinions and suggestions to the students at the end of the session.

In the afternoon, three visiting professors from Mainland China, Prof. Li Qiuling (Department of Philosophy, Renmin University of China), Prof. SUN Shangyang (Department of Philosophy and Religion, Peking University) and Prof. ZHAO Lin (Department of Philosophy, Wuhan University), delivered lectures on the topic "The Name and the Meaning of Sino-Christian Theology" from different perspectives. Their lectures brought many further questions and deeper discussions among the audiences. Finally, Prof. CHOONG made an excellent conclusion.



Consultation on Resources for the Advancement of Research on Christianity in China International Symposium

On 14 to 16 March 2007, the Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Trinity Theological College of Singapore, and Yale University Divinity School Library co-organized "Consultation on Resources for the Advancement of Research on Christianity in China International Symposium" in Beijing. ISCS Mainland China research fellow YOU Bin joined the event on behalf of our institute.

The major objective of the conference is to make a holistic examination of the available resources for Christian studies in Mainland China. Since the policy of Reform and Open Door commenced, the research of Christianity in China has made great progress. To enhance the contemporary research, it is necessary to make use of creative methodology on the one hand, and the discovery of brand new information

is essential on the other. Therefore there was heated discussion on how to discover and deal with new resources. ZHUO Xinping's paper "Academic Theology: A Theological Study based on Resources of Religious Studies in China Today" pointed to a new direction of combining religious studies and theology in Chinese situation. Paul Stuehnenberg explicated in details the rich resources of Chinese Christian literature and its digital storage in Yale University. DUAN Qi introduced her experience of rescuing and editing Chinese Christian literature from the perspective of oral history. TAO Feiya offered a holistic presentation of the resource available for the history of Chinese Christianity. ZHANG Xianqing introduced his experience of collecting and annotating the Christian sources in Chinese local gazetteers, and thought that searching for local documents is a necessary and foundational work of reconstructing the scene of Chinese Christianity. KANG Zhijie discussed the possible research directions of studying the relationship between Christianity and the Chinese society through her examples of using Christian folk literature.

The research on Chinese Christianity is not only a local event, but concerns the global mission of Christianity. The resources for the study of Chinese Christianity is not only limited in China, but over the world. In light of this, this symposium invited research institutes over the world

to introduce their resources. Michael POON offered a brief introduction to the documentation of Christianity in the Southeast Asia. ZHNAG Xianqing and LIU Jiafeng introduced the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History of the University of San Francisco on behalf of WU Xiaoxin. Michael Mukunthan introduced the historic Christian documentation in Singapore. Christabel Wong introduced the present initiatives undertaken by the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians. Our research fellow YOU Bin also introduced the idea and approaches of Sino-Christian studies and theology encouraged by ISCS, and pointed out how biblical studies may contribute to the Christian studies in China.

How to integrate the available resources in Mainland China is another big issue. Therefore different research institutes were invited to introduce their resources and development. For example, LI Tiangang of Fudan University, ZHANG Xian of Sun Yat-Sen University, ZHAO Jianmin of Sapientia Press House, LIU Jianfeng of Huazhong Normal University, GU Jun of Beijing Foreign Studies University presented their institutions respectively and attracted great attention of the audiences. There were also several theses on the development of Christianity in contemporary China presented in the conference.

Theology and Contemporary Chinese Academic Situation – Theology Workshop for Young Scholars



On 9-13 July, 2007, the first "Theology Workshop for Young Scholars" was held in Tao Fong Shan, Hong Kong. The event is organized by ISCS and the theme is "Theology and Contemporary Chinese Academic Situation". Experts from Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong were invited to deliver speeches on three sub-topics:

1. The Problematics of the 80's and 90's

*Speakers: Prof. XU Jilin (Department of History, East China Normal University)
Prof. HE Guanghu (Department of Religion, Renmin University of China)*

2. The Pluralistic Situation of Theology – University, Church and Society

*Speakers: Prof. LAI Pan-chiu (Department of Cultural & Religious Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
Prof. LIN Hongxin (Taiwan Theological Seminary)*

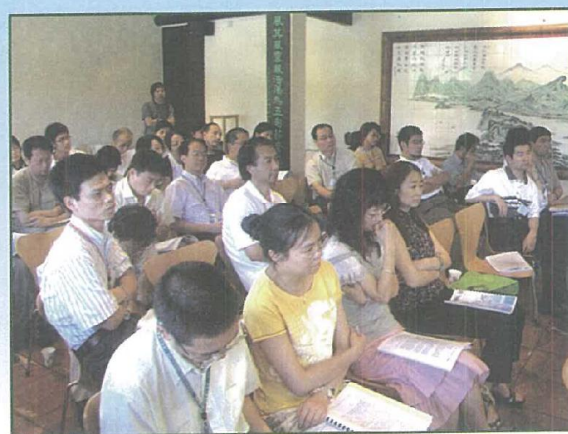
3. Theological Studies and Faith

*Speakers: Prof. Milton Wan (Divinity School of Chung Chi College, CUHK)
Prof. Stephen Chan (Department of Theology & Religious Studies, Seattle University)*



There were lectures and open discussion in the morning section and group discussions in the afternoon. More than 40 young scholars and doctoral students were invited from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Germany. A special feature of the workshop is that different generations of Chinese scholars of Christian studies were gathered together. They were of different Christian traditions and participated in dialogue with mutual respect. Everyone shared his or her own opinion and formed a trans-denominational and trans-regional academic community, which is a milestone of Sino-Christian Theology. The different generations and succession of scholars studying Christianity in China, the pluralistic situation of theology among different communities, the possibility of constructing public theology, and the

relationship between religious experience and academic studies were thoroughly discussed and debated.



Academic Exchange



The Visit of Prof. Rumyantseva Masius

In January 2007 Prof. Rumyantseva Masius of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University visited ISCS. Prof. Masius just finished 250 items of a Russian-Chinese Orthodox lexicon, and hoped this research may enhance the communication between Orthodox scholars with the Chinese academia.

of missionaries in western China from Canada before 1949. Prof. Wan also stayed in Canada in that period so as to do cooperating research.

The Visit of Prof. Emmanuel Lincot

In February 2007 Prof. Emmanuel Lincot of Institut Catholique de Paris visited ISCS. The aim of this visit was to follow-up the implementation of the cooperating items with ISCS suggested last year.

The Visit of Prof. DUAN Qi

In March 2007 emeritus Prof. DUAN Qi of the Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences visited ISCS. She was very happy to see the contribution of ISCS to the Christian Studies in Mainland China in the last decade.

The Plan of Visiting Scholars from China in Canada

Through the effort of our distinguished professor Milton Wan, ISCS has launched a new plan with Emanuel College, University of Toronto, Canada. Scholars studying Christianity in Mainland China will be selected to be visiting scholars in Canada for 2 to 3 months.

The Visit of Prof. David Ferguson

In June 2007 Prof. David Ferguson, dean of the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh and Dr. LEE Siu Chau of Hong Kong Bethel Bible Seminary visited ISCS. Dr. Jason Lam and Dr. Keith Chan introduced the work of ISCS and the development of Sino-Christian studies to the visitors.

The first participant of this plan is Prof. CHEN Jianmin of Sichuan University, who is an expert in Christian mission and publication in China. He was invited to visit Canada for two months. During the visit he collected the documentation

