

translating Christian literature is a hermeneutical process adopting new meaning, then regardless of the nature of the discourse produced, we are clarifying our concerns in the Chinese context. It is as LAI Pan Chiu says, perhaps Sino-theology could not have much contribution to ecumenical theology at present, but through the investigation of past

experience, the contemporary discussion of Sino-theology is more advanced than in the last generation (96). When Sino-theology has reached a mature stage, the accumulation of the past discussion could become a resource of reflection, and may be an aid for the later participants of ecumenical theology.



Academic Programs

Conference

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Moltmann and Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel's lecture trip in China

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Moltmann and Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel were invited by Institute of Sino-Christian Studies, Department of Philosophy and Research Center on Religion and Ethics at Tsinghua University to give several lectures from 20 to 26 October 2004. Graduate students and young scholars from Tsinghua University and other higher education institutes participated in it. The topic of Prof. Moltmann was as follows: "Dao De Jing and Wisdom," "Theology of Hope and Philosophy of Hope," "Mutual Relationship between Natural Science and Theology," "Ancestor Worship and Hope for Resurrection". Apart from providing lectures, Prof. Moltmann had an in-depth dialogue with many scholars with special interests in Religious studies with an opening speech entitled "Christian Religion in Globalization." Furthermore, his wife, Prof. Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel, also gave two lectures entitled "Mary Magdalene: Jesus' friend and the First Female Disciple" and "Feminist Theology" at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, Renmen University and Peking University.



Christian Religion and Civil Society Conference

On 9-12 December 2004, the academic conference on "Christian Religion and Civil Society" was held in Beijing by the Institute of Christian Studies, and the Christian Studies Centre of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. As Christian Studies has been gaining widespread interest in China in recent years, the number of participants of the conference exceeded 100 and more than 50 papers were delivered. It was a notable event for scholars living in China and abroad to gather together.

As the co-organizer of the conference, our Director Mr. Daniel H. N. YEUNG, research fellows Dr. Keith CHAN and Dr. Jason LAM joined the conference, and Dr. LAM presented an essay titled "A Typological Consideration of Sino-Christian Theology."

Retreat Camp for Graduate Students from China

Retreat camp for the graduate students from Mainland China was organized by our institute in October 2004. The purpose of this activity is to provide opportunity for the students to communicate with each other on scholarly matters, to share their life and faith experiences. This time we invited almost 30 students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University and Institute of Sino-Christian Studies. Their research interests range from theology, Biblical hermeneutics, history of the Chinese church, philosophy of religion, etc. During the retreat, we invited three professors to give lectures:

Prof. Andres S. K. TANG (Ph.D. University of St. Andrew; Professor of theology, Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary)

Topic: The Implication of Deconstruction towards Theology: A Call from the Other

Prof. GU Weimin (Professor in History, Shanghai University)
Topic: A History of Christian Arts in China

Prof. Theodore Zimmerman (Th.D. Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary; Professor of New Testament, HK Lutheran Theological Seminary)

Topic: New Testament Hermeneutics



A Pilgrimage to Truth— A Seminar on Selected Readings of Christian Classics III

Organizer : Institute of Sino-Christian Studies
Date : 1st November 2004
Venue : Hall, 8/F, Applied Theological Education Center, Christian Centre, 56 Bute Street, Mongkok
Co-sponsor : Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
Specker : Prof. Milton WAN (D.Phil., University of Oxford; Ph.D., Chinese University of Hong Kong; Professor of the Divinity School, Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
Topic : Struggle between Modernity and Post-modernity: Reflection on Lindbeck's Post-liberal Theology



George Lindbeck's post-liberal theological idea with emphases on the "cultural-linguistic" approach was presented by Prof. Wan. After pointing out the weakness of this perspective, Prof. Wan asserted that a kind of "Neo-Liberal-Realistic perspective" would be more suitable for the post-modern society. He pointed out that the desire for religion was reflected in post-modern society; also different religions disclosed different heterogeneous structures which were due to different religious needs of different peoples; so it would be difficult to discern which religion is "true." Christian religion had a particular religious experience, which would appeal to an objective and realistic worldview.

Academic Exchange

The visit of Prof. Dr. Michael Welker

In September 2004, Prof. Dr. Michael Welker visited our institute. He shared the trend of Christian studies in Germany



and in China with Mr. Daniel H. N. YEUNG, Dr. Jason LAM, and Dr. Keith CHAN. Dr. Michael Welker was invited by China Graduate School of Theology to lecture on "The Suffering of God in the Theology of Cross" in China Graduate School of Theology and Lutheran Theological Seminary. Prof. Dr. Welker is professor of the University of Heidelberg, who is a well-known scholar in Germany and America. At the visit, our institute shared a cooperation project with Prof. Dr. Welker to introduce some students from Tao Fong Scholarship Program, and some young scholars to further study at University of Heidelberg. Dr. Welker also shared his current research projects: Medical Ethics, Law, Person, and Money, etc and he welcomed our institute to introduce some Chinese scholars to participate in his research projects.

The visit of Prof. Dr. Francis & Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza

In November 2004, Prof. Dr. Francis & Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza visited our institute. Both of them shared the trend of Christian Studies in American and in China with Mr. Daniel H. N. YEUNG, Dr. Jason LAM and Dr. Keith CHAN. Prof. Dr. Francis & Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza were invited by the Divinity School, Chinese University of Hong Kong to give several lectures on human rights and political power in the Bible, etc. Both of them are now professors of Harvard Divinity School. At the visit we shared the details of translating Dr. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza's *In Memory of Her*.



The visit of Dr. Suzuki Shozo

In January 2005, Dr. Suzuki Shozo, Director of the Japanese Tomisaka Christian Centre visited our institute. He discussed some further cooperative projects between our two institutes. At the visit, Dr. Suzuki also invited Mr. Daniel H. N. YEUNG, our Director, to attend the 30th Anniversary of Tomisaka Christian Centre in order to build up the cooperative relationship between the two Institutes.

The visit of Dr. Carl Lee Hamrin

In January 2005, Dr. Carl Lee Hamrin, Research Professor at George Mason University, Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation visited our institute. She requested our assistance to make an appointment with the scholars in Chinese Church history which may enhance the possibility of our further mutual projects. The participants in this appointment included Prof. Peter Tze-ming NG, Professor of the Department of Cultural &

Religious Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong; the professors from Fu Jen Catholic University, and Holy Spirit Seminary.

The visit of Dr. Heinrich Geiger

In March 2005, Dr. Heinrich Geiger visited our institute. He is Head of the Asia Department of Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer - Dienst (KAAD). At the visit, we

discussed and worked together for the issue of introducing some young scholars or post-doctoral fellows from Mainland Chinese, to join the scholarship scheme of KAAD. Dr. Geiger also met our present visiting scholars: Prof. YOU Xilin, Prof. Wang Xiaochao, and Dr. Zha Changping to share the development and the needs of Christian study around academia in Mainland China.

Academic Research

Visiting Scholars

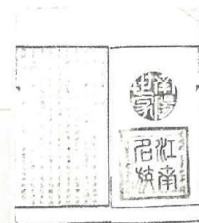
We had seven visiting scholars at our institute from October 2004 to March 2005.

Prof. LI Qiling was invited for three months from November 2004 to March 2005. Prof. LI is professor of the Department of Philosophy in Renmen University, with special research interest on medieval philosophy and theology, German philosophy and Sino-Christian theology. He is now translating *Kants Werke: Akademie Textausgabe*. The main purpose of this visit was to collect materials for his research topic entitled "The Struggle between Reason and Faith in Early Theological Development." During the visit, Prof. LI presented "Kant, Confucius and Sino-Christian Theology" at Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Sichuan University.



Prof. XIONG Lin was invited for three months from October 2004 to January 2005. Prof. XIONG graduated from Renmen University and is professor of the Department of Philosophy in Sichuan University, with special interests on medieval philosophy and theology. During the visit, Prof. XIONG presented "Platonism in the Medieval period" and "The University in Medieval times and its achievement" at our institute. Moreover, he finished an article entitled "St. Anselm and Medieval Scholastic Philosophy."

Prof. CHOONG Chee Pang was invited for two months from December 2004 to February 2005. Prof. CHOONG is working for the Lutheran World Federation, Singapore, and he has been invited as guest professor in many universities in Mainland China. The main purpose of his visit was to collect materials for his book related to New Testament Greek. Furthermore, he is preparing a paper called "Studying Christianity and Doing Theology *extra ecclesiam*."



Prof. HE Qiman was invited for two months from December 2004 to February 2005. Prof. HE is the head of the department of Religion and Philosophy in the Central University for Nationalities, with main interests on theories of religious studies, the relation between minority ethnical groups and religions. The main purpose of her visit was to collect materials for her research entitled "The Effect of the traditional faith of minority ethnical groups in adopting Christianity."

Prof. WANG Xiaochao was invited for three months from February to May 2005. Prof. WANG is a professor of the department of Philosophy in Tsinghua University and he is a well-known scholar in the field of Greek philosophy and Patristic thought. The main purpose of his visit was to collect materials for research entitled "Patristic theology and Sino-Christian Studies." During the visit, Prof. WANG lectured on "Augustine's transformation of Roman Culture" in the China Graduate School of Theology and finished an article "The Characteristic, Contribution and Future of Sino-Christian Theology."



Prof. YOU Xilin was invited for three months from February to May 2005. Prof. YOU is the director of the Centre of Religious Studies and Institute of Christian Culture in Shannxi Normal University. The main purpose of his visit was to collect research materials for research entitled "Christian beyond Consanguineous Ethics and its Implication in Sino-Christian Studies."

Dr. ZHA Changping was invited for three months from February to May 2005. Dr. ZHA holds a doctorate degree from