

GAO Xin *Second year master's student at the Department of History, Shandong University*
 Visiting Period: 5/3/2003 ~ 10/6/2003
 Research Topic: History of Reformation: Development of Luther's Doctrine of Justification by Faith
 Research Content: The research is dedicated to the study of Martin Luther's theological thought, with reference to his life, the formulation of his reformative ideas, the essential doctrines of Lutheranism, and the main ideas of *The Book of Concord*. At the same time, this research is dedicated to the study of John Calvin, with reference to his life, the formulation of his reformative ideas, and the essential doctrines of the Calvinism.

WANG Yan *Second year master's student at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Development, Shandong University*
 Visiting Period: 5/3/2003 ~ 9/6/2003
 Research Topic: Studies on the Relationship between Judaism and Christianity from the Perspective of Incarnation
 Research Content: Four questions are discussed in this research: (1) the historical contexts of the life of Jesus Christ, i.e., the conditions of Jewish religion in Palestine in the first century; (2) Christianity as a religion independent of Judaism and the formulation of the concept of Incarnation of God; (3) interpretations of the concept of Incarnation by main theologians in history, and the criticisms and responses by Judaism; (4) the possibility of reinterpretation and dialogue about this issue between Judaism and Christianity, with reference to the historical contexts of the New Testament era.

LI Qiong *First year master's student at the Department of Philosophy, Beijing University*
 Visiting Period: 15/9/2003 ~ 23/12/03
 Research Topic: Studies on the Theological Background of the Confucian-Catholic Doctrine Accepted by HAN Lin.
 Research Content: At the end of the Ming Dynasty and the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, Jesuits, especially Matteo Ricci, brought forth the Third Encounter between East and West. During this encounter, HAN Lin may be regarded as an important figure who has not been dealt with adequately in past research. Among his works are *Duo Shu* (《鐸書》), in which Catholic doctrines are reflected upon, and also *Bianjiao Lun* (《辨教論》) and *Shengjiao Xinzheng* (《聖教信證》), jointly written by HAN Lin and one of his brothers in faith. As witnessed in *Duo Shu* in particular, HAN Lin

has introduced Catholic doctrines considerably in Confucian systems such as "Xiangyue" (鄉約) and "Shengyu Liuyan" (聖諭六言) for explanation and interpretation. For HAN Lin, Catholicism and Confucianism are harmonious and mutually supportive. This research attempts to discuss the theological background and origin of HAN Lin's Confucianisation of Catholic doctrines, and to represent the exchange of thought between East and West during that time.

Postdoctoral Fellow

XIE Zhibin *Ph.D candidate at the Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong*
 Research Period: 9/2003 ~ 8/2004
 Research Topic: Political Theories and Chinese Religion
 Project Title and Content in ISCS: An Evaluation of the Empirical Study of Christianity in Chinese Society. This project will mainly include two parts. First, a collection and examination of field work reports on various aspects of Christianity in Chinese society. This is to understand the basic situation and change of Christian life under social and political transition since 1980s in China. Some special issues from the reports will be analyzed, for example, a comparative study on urban and rural Christianity, the relationship between Christian faith and local religious traditions, particular Christian groups, and some empirical studies on certain topics from cultural, philosophical, moral, and historical perspectives. The second part of the project will give an overall evaluation of these field work reports, pointing out their limitations (both from political influence and the research itself) and aspects to be improved, including methodological and theoretical improvement. Based on these analyses, the project will suggest to the Institute some work which may promote and facilitate the empirical study of Christianity in China.

Guest Professors

Dr. John LeMond, a guest professor of our Institute, was invited to lecture on "Christianity and World Religions" in English for a credit course at Zhongshan University from September to December 2003. Dr. LeMond received his Ph.D from Princeton Theological Seminary with special interests in Mission, Ecumenism and History of Religions. His research topics are theology and culture, and church history.

Academic Staff

Below is a report of the work undertaken by **Dr. Keith Chan** (Program Coordinator and Research Fellow) from April to September 2003: