

Responding to the Call: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Doing Theology in Asia

Much of today's world has become highly specialized—and the same can be said of Theological Education. Indeed, much of what we know of the traditional theological education that has been passed down to us, is highly fragmented. While there is a place for specialization, it has restricted our vision so that we

miss the larger picture; because much of theological education has become compartmentalized into various specializations and disciplines, many have failed to grasp reality in all its totality.

But more than failing to see the bigger picture is the fact that many evangelicals miss out on the fact that no one discipline is enough to further advance God's kingdom here on earth. While specialization does make for a sharpened focus, it is when the different specializations come together that we see more advancement in furthering His Kingdom. That's why an interdisciplinary approach matters and makes a world of difference—and thus, the theme for this year's theological consultation.

Challenges facing Asian Evangelicals Today." In our previous consultation, we tried to focus on what it is that we are being called to do as Christian scholars—and thus the question: "What is our calling?" From the paper presentations and discussions, it came out that our calling goes beyond our respective expertise and specializations. We realized that what matters is not so much what we do inside the academic circles, but on how these contribute to the life of the Church so that the Kingdom of God may be realized here on earth. This is a great calling and no one scholar is able to fulfil it. And so we realized the need for a hermeneutical community. This is the impetus for the emphasis on the interdisciplinary approaches for this year's ATA Theological Consultation.

This year's consultation will be held on the 31st of July up until the 2nd of August, 2018 at the BSA Twin Towers Hotel, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. The plenary speakers are Dr. Simon Chan who will be presenting a paper entitled, "The Feminist Subject: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Evangelical Feminism"; Dr. Havilah Dharamraj who will be presenting a paper entitled, "Biblical Studies and the Interdisciplinary Approach of Comparative Literature (and Beyond)"; and lastly, Dr. Melba Maggay who will be presenting a

This year's theological consultation, "Responding to the Call: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Doing Theology in Asia" serves as a follow through of last year's consultation, "The Calling of an Asian Biblical Scholar/ Theologian:



Responding to the call: Interdisciplinary approaches to doing theology in Asia

This year's theological consultation is in conjunction with last year's consultation "The Calling of an Asian Biblical Scholar/ Theologian: Challenges facing Asian Evangelicals today." Our aim is to see models of how interdisciplinary theologizing can be made possible.

Main speakers:
 Dr. Simon Chan
 Dr. Melba Maggay
 Dr. Havilah Dharamraj

31 July - 02 August 2018
 BSA Twin Towers Hotel
 Bank Drive, Ortigas Center
 Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

Registration fee (inclusive of meals and accommodation):
 USD 360 (1 bedroom suite) USD260 (twin sharing studio deluxe);
 stay out guests: PHP6,500, includes buffet dinner (July 31), am & pm snacks, buffet lunch (August 1&2)

for more information, please visit: www.ataasia.com

ASIA THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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paper entitled, "The Hermeneutical Community and the Task of Contextual Engagement". Apart from the aforementioned plenary speakers, there will be several parallel session speakers presenting their papers on

how interdisciplinary theologizing can and has already been done.

This year's consultation will most definitely be a good time for scholars of various disciplines to come together and

discuss how we can work together to make His Kingdom come a more tangible reality in this world.

We look forward to having you join us in this conversation!

The Field Research Doctoral Supervisor's seminar: Moving towards stronger Doctoral programs across Asia



32 participants from different countries and institutions participated in the Field Doctoral Supervisor's Seminar in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

ATA, in partnership with the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) held another seminar to further strengthen doctoral programs in Asia. Last May 9-12, 2018, 32 participants from different

theological schools and countries gathered for the ATA/ICETE Field Research Doctoral Supervisor's seminar. This was held in the YMCA International Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand and facilitated by Drs. Kevin Lawson, Talbot School of Theology, Biola

University, California, and Jessy Jaison, New India Bible Seminary, Kerala, India.

Over the course of four days, the participants identified the ways by which they can more effectively mentor and supervise doctoral students as they conduct field research. The seminar started with an emphasis on the missional focus of theological education and the challenge for the theological researcher to hold academics, faith and ministry in balance in a scholarly inquiry and to be a thinker and a reflective practitioner. The sessions that followed dealt not only with the basics of research and the research process, but also with the different kinds of research issues and the ethical considerations involved in the latter. Furthermore, the sessions also highlighted the role of field research in lessening the gap between church and seminary and engaging in hands-on exploration of the ground realities of church and society.

In addition to all that had been mentioned above, the seminar became an avenue for the educators and leaders



Drs. Kevin Lawson and Jessy Jaison were not only engaging facilitators as they led the sessions, but were also amazing resource persons who willingly shared their experiences in doctoral supervision.

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AGST IN FOCUS: PHILIPPINES

Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines has conferred seven doctoral degrees this year. A PhD and a DMin in Peace Studies were conferred at the graduation of the host school, the International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL), on April 7, 2018. A PhD in Holistic Child Development was conferred at the graduation of the host school, Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, on May 5, 2018. Four women received their EdD in Christian Counseling at the graduation of the host school, Biblical Seminary of the Philippines, on May 27, 2018.

Below are the names and dissertation titles of the new doctors:

1. Gary Friesen, PhD

Dissertation title: Top-Level Christian Leaders Who Experience Personal

Leadership Conflict: Factors Contributing to Spiritual Brokenness.

2. Lyndon Ladera, DMin

Dissertation title: Recovery from the Aftermath of Typhoon Pablo (Bopha): A Comparative Study Among Six Faith Communities in Compostela Valley, Philippines.

3. Aweke Solomon, PhD

Dissertation title: The Joy and Burden of Caring for Orphans and Vulnerable Children: A Case Study on the Wellbeing of Primary Caregivers in Food for the Hungry, Ethiopia, Child Development Program.

4. Joyce Piap Go, EdD

Dissertation title: Influence of Close Parental Relationship, Aggression and

Self-Esteem on Potential Bullying Among Students in a Filipino-Chinese School.

5. Mary Elaine Benjamin, EdD

Dissertation title: Thinking, Talking, and Taking Control of One's Life: Improving Adolescent Reflective Function through Psychoeducation and Process Groups.

6. Irish Lopez, EdD

Dissertation title: Never Good Enough: The Influence of Adult Attachment and Emotional Regulation in Perfectionism and Depression Among Protestant Christians in the Philippines.

7. Jae Hyang Seo, EdD

Dissertation title: The Effectiveness of Building a Healthy Self-Concept Program in Improving the Self-Concept of Korean Christian Women in the Philippines.

AGST Philippines is a consortium of eight seminaries working together to offer post-graduate programs. Other programs being offered are ThM-PhD in Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, and Church History, PhD in Transformational Learning, Transformational Development, Intercultural Studies, and Doctor of Missiology.



EdD Counseling graduates with Dr. Azriel Azarcon (AGST Dean), Dr. Joseph Shao (BSOP President) and AGST/BSOP leaders/faculty.



DMin and PhD in Peace Studies graduates: Lyndon Ladera and Gary Friesen



PhD in HCD graduate, Aweke Solomon, with Dr. Nativity Petallar (program director), and Dr. Emmanuel Luna (dissertation advisor).

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from different institutions to sharpen one another through informal consultations and the sharing of best practices. It helped that the participants were able to bring the lessons closer to home by having their context specific concerns properly addressed. The seminar also served to challenge the participants to think

about ways by which to reinforce the culture of research in their institutions.

Clearly, the participants took home with them more than just what they had learned from the sessions, but also the true to life examples that the facilitators and participants

shared with one another. Without doubt, the Field Research Doctoral Supervisor's seminar was enriching and was most useful in sharpening the skills of those who came. This is one of the many beginnings towards stronger doctoral programs across Asia, further equipping the church for God's mission.

Moving beyond our Asian Borders: ATA presence in Canada

In our highly globalized world, the Asian Diaspora is quickly on the rise—and one of the values esteemed by ATA is in relation to this people. We encourage member institutions to help students learn ministry strategies for Asians in multi-cultural contexts.

The Chinese diaspora is a growing community in Canada. The influx of immigrants from China annually has grown from 30,000 to 50,000. As of 2016, Canadians of Chinese descent make up about four percent of the Canadian population or an estimate of 1.56 million people. With the growing population of

the Chinese diaspora comes a growing need to minister to this community. Thus, the Canadian Chinese School of Theology (CCST) was born.

CCST was established in 2005 to meet the increasing need for Mandarin speaking pastors in Canada and to equip missionaries to the Chinese diaspora at home and around the world. In 2015, ATA accredited the programs in CCST Toronto (being offered in collaboration with Tyndale Seminary). The programs in CCST Vancouver were also examined by the ATA visiting evaluation team. It was recommended that the programs be fully accredited after they

have first batch of graduates. On May 19, 2018, the first CCST Vancouver graduation service was held with Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA General Secretary, as special guest.

While in Canada, Dr. Lua also went to Carey Theological College (CTC) which has recently applied for ATA membership. CTC is located inside the University of British Columbia. It offers Chinese programs (in Mandarin and Cantonese) and also has students from Asia in their modular and online programs. Seeing the need for their programs to be accredited both in North America and Asia, CTC will also be pursuing ATA accreditation.



Dr. Theresa Lua with CCST leaders including the president, Dr. Peter Au (seated, 2nd from right)



CCST Vancouver's first Commissioning Service.



Dr. Theresa Lua at Carey Theological College with Dr. Colin Godwin (President), and Dr. Joyce Chan, (VP for Academic)



Dr. Theresa Lua with her husband, Dr. Fernando Lua, and some faculty at Carey Theological College.

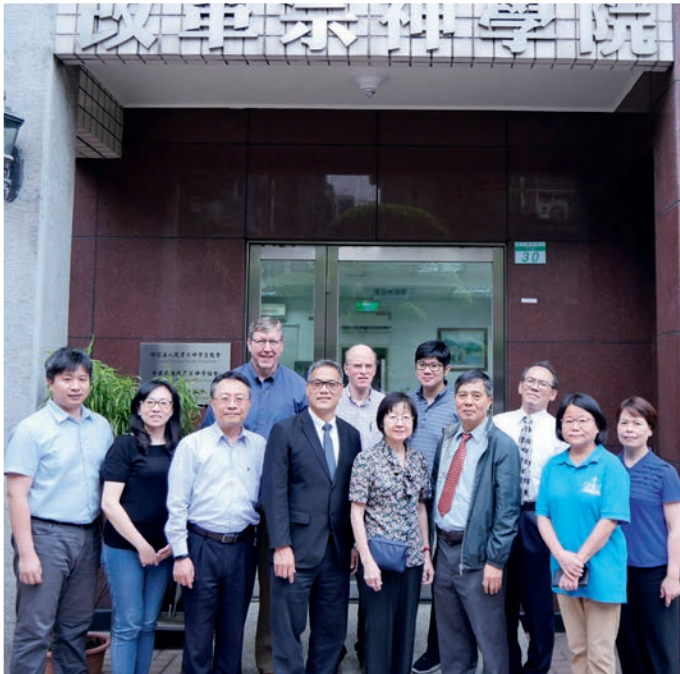
Visiting Evaluation Teams grace institutions in Taiwan and Korea

During the second quarter of this year, ATA had Visiting Evaluation teams sent to five institutions, two of them are in Taiwan and three in South Korea.

The institutions in Taiwan are the Christian Hakka Seminary (23-25 April) and the China Reformed Theological Seminary (26-28 April). On the other hand, the institutions in South

Korea are the Asia Life University (16-17 May), Peniel Theological Seminary (21-23 May), and the Korea University of International Studies (24-26 May).

TAIWAN



China Reformed Theological Seminary was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of Accreditation and Educational Development, ATA; James Pan Professor Emeritus, China Lutheran Seminary, Hsinchu, Taiwan; and Jonathan Ro, Associate Director for DMin, GETS Theological Seminary, USA.

Christian Hakka Seminary was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, ATA; Lily K. Chua, Acting Academic Dean, China Evangelical Seminary, Taiwan; and Jonathan Ro.

SOUTH KOREA



Asia Life University was visited by Dr. Jonathan Ro. This was a follow up visit to evaluate an additional program.

Peniel Theological Seminary was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Jonathan Ro, and Dong Chan Seo, Regional Secretary, ATA Korea.

Korea University of International Studies was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Jonathan Ro, and Kyung Chul Lim, Vice President of AGST Pacific

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