

**The Many Faces of Christianity in China:
Navigating Sino-Christian Studies**

**Różne Oblicza Chrześcijaństwa w Chinach:
Wyznaczanie Kierunku Badań Sino-Chrześcijańskich**

Aug.2nd -5th, 2023

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

Brief biography of each speaker:

Lauren F. Pfister 費樂仁 (Hephzibah Mountain Aster Academy & Hong Kong Baptist University)

Brief biography: Associated with the Religion and Philosophy Department at Hong Kong Baptist University for thirty years (1987-2017), and serving in various leadership positions there during the last ten years, Prof. Pfister is now Professor Emeritus of HKBU, a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities, and currently the Rector of a small humanities-based research mentoring center in the U.S.A. called Hephzibah Mountain Aster Academy. For nearly thirty years he was also involved as part of the editorial team associated with *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* (USA), serving as one of its associate editors for more than ten years. Holding post graduate degrees were obtained in the USA in Christian studies (MDiv) and Philosophy (MA, PhD), the latter completed in 1987 in comparative philosophy with a 20th century three way Chinese-European-American focus in political philosophical issues. Now, more than thirty years later, Prof. Pfister is known in some contemporary Chinese academic contexts as a multi-lingual philosopher, theologian, and sinologist.

In terms of his contributions to Chinese philosophy, Prof. Pfister began with studies in Ruist (“Confucian”) and Daoist philosophical traditions, producing a dissertation involving Kang Youwei’s 康有為 (1858-1927) utopian and scientific conception of a planetary-wide politically maintained human unity (*datong* 大同), written under the supervision of the Ruist philosopher at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Prof. Chung-ying Cheng 成中英 (1935-).

Over the years his academic interests expanded to include Chinese religious studies (primarily in Ruist, Daoist, Christian traditions, but also dealing with Buddhist and Muslim traditions in China), the history of Chinese philosophical and religious traditions, and the foreign translations of Chinese classical works by Christian missionary-scholars (ca. 1850-1990). As a consequence, he developed specializations in the history of modern and contemporary Chinese Christianity, Ruist-Christian philosophical and religious interactions, comparative philosophical hermeneutics, and translation hermeneutics. Besides studies published about the works of the two Chinese figures already mentioned, he has produced some seminal studies of the life and works of the modern professional Chinese philosopher, Feng Youlan 馮友蘭(1895-1990), including essays on reconceiving a post-Marxist understanding of the history of Chinese philosophical traditions. In addition, he has explored questions related to the translation corpi of Chinese classical works produced in English by the Scottish Congregationalist James Legge (理雅各 1815-1897), in Russian by the Russian Orthodox Iakin, whose secular name was Nikita Y. Bichurin (比丘林 1777-1852), in English by the Swiss Anglican pastor-scholar, Solomon Caesar Malan (馬智庫 1812-1894), in German by the German Lutheran Ernst Faber (花之安 1839-1899), in French by the French Jesuits Séraphin Couvreur (顧賽芬 1835-1919) and Léon Wieger (戴遂良 1856-1933), in German by the German Lutheran Richard Wilhelm (衛禮賢 1873-1930) and, most recently, in Portuguese by the Portuguese Jesuit Joaquim Angélico de Jesus Guerra (戈振東 1908-1993).

Besides his long-term affiliation with HKBU, he has held special teaching and research positions in the Humanities Division of the University of New South Wales (in Sydney, 2000, in coordination with Singaporean-Australian philosopher, Prof. Karyn Lai, and others in the Philosophy and Chinese studies areas), the Sinology Institute of Bonn University, Germany (2000-2001, in coordination with sinologist, creative writer, and translator, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kubin 顧彬教授 and his colleagues), the Religious Studies Department of Berne University, Switzerland (2007-2008, in coordination with Prof. Karénina Kollmar-Poulanz), and the Philosophy Department of East China Normal University 華東師範大學 (2008, in coordination with Prof. Pan Derong 潘德榮教授). Three sets of recent guest lecture series have been presented in the

Humanities Division of Zhejiang University 浙江大學 in Hangzhou (2018 and 2019) and in the Foreign Language School in Guizhou University 貴州大學 in Guiyang (2019).

Remaining academically active after his retirement from HKBU in 2017, he has recently published two large volumes related to philosophical issues, while serving as an editor for a thirteen-volume set called *James Legge's (1815-1897) Collected Works* (Beijing: Commercial Press, forthcoming), to which he has added critical introductory essays for many volumes and two more general essays. The two previously mentioned volumes are *Vital Post-Secular Perspectives on Chinese Philosophical Issues* (Lexington Press, 2020), and a volume he edited and contributed to with a team of a dozen remarkable international scholars, *Polyglot from the Far Side of the Moon: The Life and Works of Solomon Caesar Malan (1812-1894)* (Monumenta Serica, 2022).

<https://rel.hkbu.edu.hk/people/pfister-lauren-frederick>

https://rel.hkbu.edu.hk/f/people/248/Lauren%20Pfister_CV.pdf

Ping-cheung Lo 羅秉祥 (Fuller Seminary & Hong Kong Baptist University)

Ping-cheung Lo is currently the Dean and Rebecca Stephan Professor of Chinese Studies and Academic Dean of the Chinese Studies Center, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, USA. He is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist University, where he served for almost 31 years. During his long service there he was the Department Chair for 7 years, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts for 7 years, and was the Founding Director of the Centre for Sino-Christian Studies. He received his Ph.D. in Religious Ethics at Yale University (1990) and Ph.D. in Moral Philosophy at SUNY at Buffalo (1982). He is the author of 10 books, co-editor of 9 books, and the author of about 80 published articles and book chapters, particularly in the areas of Chinese-Western comparative warfare ethics and Confucian-Christian dialogue.

<https://www.fuller.edu/faculty/ping-cheung-pc-lo/>

Thierry Meynard 梅謙立 (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou)

Thierry Meynard S.J. is currently professor and Ph.D director at the philosophy department of Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, where he teaches Western

Philosophy and Latin Classics. He is the vice-director of the Archive for Introduction of Western Knowledge, at Sun Yat-Sen University. In 2012-2014, he was also the director of The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies, a study program established by the Jesuits in 1998, and he still supervises the research activity of this center. In 2003, he obtained his Ph.D in Philosophy from Peking University, presenting a thesis on Liang Shuming. From 2003 to 2006, he taught philosophy at Fordham University, New York. Since 2006, he is a member of the Macau Ricci Institute. He has authored twenty academic articles and a dozen of essays. He authored *The Jesuit Reading of Confucius* (Boston: Brill, 2015), *The Religious Philosophy of Liang Shuming* (Boston: Brill, 2011), *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus* (Rome: IHSI, 2011), *Following the Footsteps of the Jesuits in Beijing* (St Louis: Jesuit Sources, 2006), and co-edited with Philip Major, *The Dao Companion to Liang Shuming* (Springer: 2023), with Daniel Canaris, *A Brief Response on the Controversies over Shangdi, Tianshen and Linghun*, by Niccolò Longobardo (Palgrave: 2021), with Pan Dawei, *A Brief Introduction to the Study of Human Nature by Giulio Aleni* (Boston: Brill, 2020), and with Sher-shiueh Li, *Jesuit Chreia in Late Ming China* (Bern: Peter Lang: 2014). He also edited *Li Madou, Tianzhushiyi jinzhu* (Shangwu yinshuguan, 2014), Matteo Ricci, *Le sens réel de « Seigneur du Ciel »* (Paris, Bibliothèque Chinoise, Belles Lettres, 2013), *Teilhard and the Future of Humanity* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2006).

<http://globalnetresearch.org/team/prof-thierry-meynard-s-j/>

<https://philosophy.sysu.edu.cn/teacher/ThierryMeynard>

Piotr Adamek 顧孝永 (Monumenta Serica & Fu Jen Catholic University)

Piotr Adamek SVD (*1972) studied sinology at the Moscow State University in Russia and defended his doctoral dissertation at the Leiden University (The Netherlands). He is a member of the sinological Institute Monumenta Serica and assistant professor at the Department of Religious Studies, Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan.

<http://www.monumenta-serica.de/monumenta-serica/institute/members-and-staff/biblgr-adamek.php>

<http://www.rsd.fju.edu.tw/index.php/en/members-en/full-time-faculty-en/team/piotr-adamek-en>

Cindy Yik-yi CHU 朱益宜 (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Cindy Yik-yi Chu is Professor of History at Hong Kong Baptist University. She writes on the Catholic Church and the Catholic sisters in China Mainland and Hong Kong. She has published 17 books and 50 some articles in edited volumes and journals. Her recent works include: Edited. *The Catholic Church, the Bible, and Evangelization in China* (Palgrave 2021); Edited with Paul P. Mariani, *People, Communities, and the Catholic Church in China* (Palgrave, 2020); and *The Chinese Sisters of the Precious Blood and the Evolution of the Catholic Church* (Palgrave, 2016). She is interested in the history of the Catholic Church in modern and contemporary China and Hong Kong, Catholic sisters in Chinese societies, and Sino-Vatican relations. She is now editing *The Palgrave Handbook of the Catholic Church in East Asia* and working on the history of Sino-Vatican relations. She is also writing a biography of Cardinal John Tong in Hong Kong.

<https://histweb.hkbu.edu.hk/people/detail/25/3/>

Daniel Canaris 柯修文 (University of Sydney)

Daniel Canaris is DECRA Research Fellow & Lecturer in the School of Languages & Cultures at the University of Sydney. His research interests encompass Sino-Western intellectual exchange in the early modern and Enlightenment periods, as well as the history of the Jesuit China mission. Books include *Vico and China* (Voltaire Foundation, 2020) and *Michele Ruggieri's Tianzhu shilu (The True Record of the Lord of Heaven, 1584)* (Brill, 2023). He has also co-edited with Thierry Meynard *A Brief Response on the Controversies over Shangdi, Tianshen and Linghun* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021) & *From Confucius to Zhu Xi: The First Treatise on God in François Noël's Chinese Philosophy (1711)* (Brepols, 2023). His publications have appeared in journals such as *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Renaissance & Reformation*, *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*, *MLN*, *Theoria* and the *Intellectual History Review*.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/arts/about/our-people/academic-staff/daniel-canaris.html>

<https://www.ikgf.fau.de/people/index.shtml/daniel-canaris.shtml>

Wei JIANG 蔣薇 (University of Zurich)

Wei Jiang (Ph.D 2017) is a historian, whose research examines Roman Catholic interactions with local religions and societies in East, Southeast, and South Asia, between the 16th and 19th centuries. Her last monograph is “True Catholicism” in Colonial South Asia: The Independent Catholics in Ceylon and India in the late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2023).

<https://itatti.harvard.edu/people/wei-jiang>

Raissa De Gruttola 德希樂 (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Raissa De Gruttola holds a Ph.D in Asian and African Studies (Chinese) at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, where she is currently a Research Fellow. Her field of research includes the historical and linguistic features of biblical translation in the Chinese language, with a particular focus on the Catholic version *Sigao Shengjing* of the Franciscans. Her research also covers the presence of Christians and Franciscan missionaries in China and the various versions of the *Bible* in Chinese. She also did research on the cultural exchange between Christian and Chinese culture, with a focus on the writings by Simone Weil. She has been teaching Chinese language at Enna and Perugia University. She presented the first results of her research in international conferences and published a book and articles in academic journals on the topic.

Monica Romano (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)

Monica Romano is a sinologist and social scientist holding a Doctoral degree in Ethnology and Ethno-Anthropology from Sapienza University of Rome. She has been researching on Bible translation into Chinese since the end of the 1990s, defending her Master's thesis (2002) and doctoral thesis (2015) on this topic. She also studied and conducted research activity in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the UK, and presented the findings of her investigation in various national and international conferences. Since 2013, she has been lecturing at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, including on topics related to Chinese philosophies, religions and Christianity. Dr. Romano is a member of the Italian Association of Chinese Studies, European Association of Chinese Studies, and the Italian Society for the Study of Religion.

Antonio De Caro 周盛羅 (University of Zurich)

Antonio De Caro (PhD, Hong Kong Baptist University) is Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Art History, University of Zürich, where he is pursuing research on the representations of St. Francis Xavier in Asia for the Global Economies of Salvation. Art and the Negotiation of Sanctity in the Early Modern Period (GLOBECOSAL) project. His monograph, *Angelo Zottoli. A Jesuit missionary in China (1848–1902)*, appeared in 2022. He recently authored several articles including: “(Re-) producing Conversion from Rome to Beijing. Stories Related to Replicas of the Salus Populi Romani in the Late-sixteenth Century” (*Convivium* 2021), “From the Altar to the Household. The Challenging Popularization of Christian Devotional Images, Objects, and Symbols in 16th and 17th Century China” (*Eikon Imago* 2022) and, with Thierry Meynard and Zhenxu Fan, “A Concealed Reading for Early Chinese Christians: Text, Context, and Circulation of the *Discourse on Vegetarianism (Su shuo 素說)* in the Early Modern Period” (*Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 2022). His interests lie in the history of Christianity in China, in particular, the popularisation, diffusion, and reception of Catholic art in China during the early modern era.

Zhenxu Fan 範貞序 (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)

Zhenxu Fan is the principal investigator (together with Antonio De Caro) of the research project “Adaptation of the Christian Beliefs of God and Soul in Chinese Thought: Rethinking the Legacy of Early Catholic Missionaries and Converts during 17th-18th Centuries” funded by the National Science Center (NCN) of Poland. She is finalizing her Ph.D program on the topic of the comparative study of the concept of the human soul in ancient Greek and Chinese philosophical thought and medical practice, in the Faculty of Philosophy, at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. She teaches Chinese language classes and lectures on the topics of Modern Chinese literature and Cotemporary China in the Sinology Department at KUL since 2018. Her interests range from philosophy to literature. She co-authored the article “A Concealed Reading for Early Chinese Christians: Text, Context, and Circulation of the *Discourse on Vegetarianism (Su shuo 素說)* in the Early Modern Period” (*Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* 2022), with Thierry

Meynard and Antonio De Caro, and will have the article “Not to Become: The Value of Counterfactual Thinking and Imagination in the Selves of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn” published in *The Mark Twain Annual* in 2023.

John E. Vesey 李若望 (Priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn & missionary in Latin America and China)

John E. Vesey, Diocesan priest in the Diocese of Brooklyn (NYC), missionary to Paraguay, Guatemala, and China. During his time in Guatemala, he was the founder of the Human Rights Office, Diocese of Sololá, Guatemala and the Director of the Center for Lay Formation He was the Executive Secretary of the Commission on the Family of the Conference of Bishops of Guatemala and also the Executive Director of the National Catechetical Commission. While in Paraguay, he was the Executive Secretary of the Office of Permanent Diaconate of the Bishops’ Conference and the Executive Secretary of the National Office for Vocations. Monsignor Vesey earned a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from Barry University with his thesis: *The New Evangelization: Catholic Social Teaching – Light in Darkness*.