

2019 International Conference on Comparative Theology

Program content

23 - 24 July 2019 Australian Catholic University Melbourne Campus



Welcome from Professor Dermot Nestor and Dr Anita Ray



As Executive Dean for the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy I am delighted to welcome you to the Australian Catholic University, to the city of Melbourne and, to the 2019 International Conference on Comparative Theology.

Framed around several interrelated streams and anchored by some of the world's leading academics, this year's conference explores the challenges of religious encounter and the opportunities dialogue across religious boundaries can provide. It is a conference that speaks to issues that are at the heart of our fragmented and contemporary world and concerns all who have a stake in its future.

Events like the 2019 International Comparative Theology Conference do not happen without the efforts of a great many people. In this regard I would like to extend a sincere thanks to all colleagues within the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy but especially to Dr Anita Ray, Ms Mari-Claire Lewis and Dr Emmanuel Nathan: it is as a result of their vision, their dedication, their skill and consummate grace that I can welcome you here today.

Sincerely,

Professor Dermot Nestor

Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology & Philosophy Australian Catholic University



This is the first time that the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at Australian Catholic University has organised an International Conference on Comparative Theology.

In the past we have enjoyed regular monthly seminars on Comparative Theology at our Melbourne campus, and even biennial symposia for delegates from the Pacific rim countries and Japan; however, this year we have broadened our horizons to include Africa, Canada, USA, Italy and Belgium.

Comparative theology has now become a fundamental aspect of our work within the Faculty, aspiring to serve not only the University community and the Church, but also the pluralistic society in which we live.

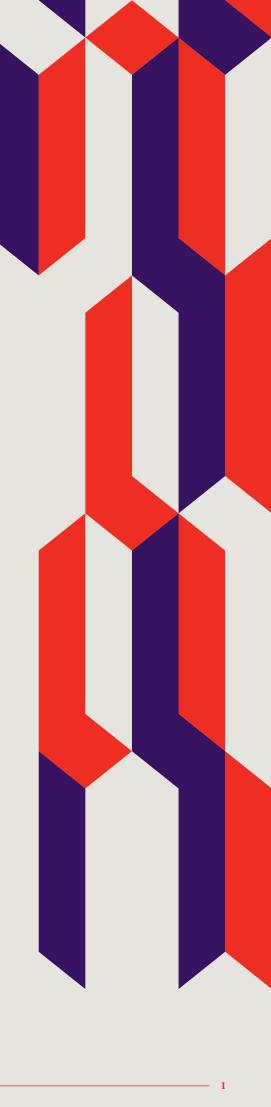
I particularly wish to acknowledge those who have assisted with this International event:

- the Faculty Executive Dean, Professor Dermot Nestor, who has supported and encouraged the project of interreligious learning within Australian Catholic University
- Professor Francis X Clooney SJ (Harvard University) who has mentored and inspired our Comparative Theology project at ACU since its inception in 2012
- All members of the monthly Monday afternoon Comparative Theology Focus Group
- Faculty staff who have assisted with the planning, most especially our Finance Manager, Penelope Yurcevic; Marketing Manager, Nadine Maiolla; and Event Coordinator, Mari-Claire Lewis

Grateful thanks to those who have travelled vast distances to reach our southernmost continent and to all who have prepared major addresses, presentations and posters. We hope the conference proves a rich source of academic and spiritual insight for all.

Dr Anita C. Ray

Comparative Theology Convenor, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy Chair, International Conference on Comparative Theology, 23-24 July 2019 Australian Catholic University



Schedule for International Conference on Comparative Theology 23 - 24 July 2019

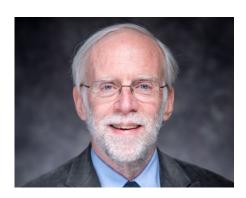
TIME	TUESDAY JULY 23		
8.50am	Welcome to Country		
9am	Introduction to Conference (Dr Anita C. Ray)		
9.25am	Prof Francis X. Clooney SJ		
10.30am	Morning tea (30 mins)		
11am	Prof Catherine Cornille		
12.15pm	Lunch (60 mins)		
1.15pm	The Rev Dr Diego Sarrió Cucarella M.Afr.		
2.30pm	Afternoon tea (30 mins)		
3pm	Breakout 1		
3.45pm	Short break		
4pm	The Rev Dr Yesudasan Remias		
5pm	End of day's sessions		

TIME	WEDNESDAY JULY 24
9am	Comments on previous day's learning (Prof Francis X Clooney SJ)
9.25am	Prof Marianne Moyaert
10.30am	Morning tea (30 mins)
11am	Dr Makoto Sawai
12.15pm	Lunch (60 mins)
1.15pm	Breakout 2
2pm	Breakout 3
3pm	Afternoon tea (30 mins)
3.30pm	Dr Emmanuel Nathan
4.45pm	Concluding remarks Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology & Philosophy, Prof Dermot Nestor,
5pm	End of conference

Note:

Poster presentations will occur during the lunch break on both days.

Meet the experts



PROFESSOR FRANCIS X CLOONEY SJ Harvard University

It's Wholly Personal: Encountering Ramanuja (1017-1137), a Complete Hindu Theologian

Francis X Clooney SJ joined the Harvard Divinity School faculty in 2005. He is Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology. After earning his doctorate in South Asian languages and civilizations (University of Chicago, 1984), he taught at Boston College for 21 years before joining Harvard University.

His primary areas of Indological scholarship are theological commentarial writings in the Sanskrit and Tamil traditions of Hindu India. He is also a leading figure globally in the developing field of comparative theology, a discipline distinguished by attentiveness to the dynamics of theological learning deepened through the study of traditions other than one's own. He has also written on the Jesuit missionary tradition, particularly in India, on the early Jesuit pan-Asian discourse on reincarnation, and on the dynamics of dialogue and interreligious learning in the contemporary world.

Clooney is the author of numerous articles and books, including Thinking Ritually: Retrieving the Purva Mimamsa of Jaimini (Vienna, 1990), Theology after Vedanta: An Experiment in Comparative Theology (State University of New York Press, 1993), Beyond Compare: St. Francis de Sales and Sri Vedanta Deshika on Loving Surrender to God (Georgetown University Press,

2008), The Truth, the Way, the Life: Christian Commentary on the Three Holy Mantras of the Shrivaisnava Hindus (Peeters Publishing, 2008), Comparative Theology: Deep Learning across Religious Borders (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), and His Hiding Place Is Darkness: A Hindu-Catholic Theopoetics of Divine Absence (Stanford University Press, 2013). Recent books include the co-edited How to Do Comparative Theology (Fordham University Press, 2017), The Future of Hindu-Christian Studies: A Theological Inquiry (Routledge, 2017), and Learning Interreligiously: In the Text, in the World (Fortress, 2018).

He is currently completing Slow Learning in Fast Times: On Reading Six Hindu and Christian Classics and How It Matters, based on the 2017 James W. Richard Lectures at the University of Virginia, and writing shorter essays on the Manual of Daily Worship (Nityam) by the Hindu theologian Ramanuja, and on Constantine Beschi, S.J., a Jesuit missionary in South India in the eighteenth century.

He is a Roman Catholic priest and has been a member of the Society of Jesus for 50 years. He serves regularly in a Catholic parish on weekends. From 2007 to 2016, Clooney blogged regularly in the "In All Things" section of America magazine online, and you can also read his writing on his current blogsite, *The Inner Edge*.

In July 2010, he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy and served as a Professorial Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University. From 2010 to 2017, he was the Director of the Center for the Study of World Religions here at Harvard. In 2019 he was appointed President of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA).



PROFESSOR CATHERINE CORNILLE Boston College

Comparative Theology: More than Comparing Theologies

Catherine Cornille is the Newton College Alumnae Chair of Western Culture and Professor of Comparative Theology at Boston College. She obtained her PhD from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, where she taught from 1990 until 2000. Her teaching and research focus on theoretical questions in Theology of Religions, Comparative Theology and Interreligious Dialogue.

She has authored or edited 16 books in the area of Interreligious Dialogue, most recently The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue (2008), Criteria of Discernment in Interreligious Dialogue (2009), Interreligious Hermeneutics (2010), The World Market and Interreligious Dialogue (2011), Interreligious Dialogue and Cultural Change (2012), Women and Interreligious Dialogue (2013), The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Inter-Religious Dialogue (2013) and, with J. Bloechl, Christianity Between Secularity and Plurality (2015). Her book Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology will be published by Wiley in 2018-2019. She is founding editor-in-chief of the book series "Christian Commentaries on non-Christian Sacred Texts."



PROFESSOR MARIANNE MOYAERT VU Amsterdam

Reflections on the Uniqueness of Christian-Jewish Comparative Theology

Marianne Moyaert is Chair of Comparative Theology and Hermeneutics of Interreligious Dialogue at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She is the coordinator of a Master's program Building Interreligious Relations. Her research focuses on the hermeneutical, ethical, and theological presuppositions of interreligious dialogue. She recently published In Response to the Religious Other: Ricoeur and the Fragility of Interreligious Encounters (2014), and is also interested in the ritual expressions of interreligious encounters and has published several articles on that subject in Culture and Religion, Harvard Theological Review, and the International Journal of Philosophy and Theology. Together with Joris Geldhof, she edited a book entitled Ritual Participation and Interreligious Dialogue: Boundaries, Transgressions and Innovations (Bloomsbury, 2015).



THE REV DR DIEGO SARRIÓ CUCARELLA M.AFR.

Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI)

The Specter Still Haunting a Christian Theology of Islam: Can Comparative Theology Save Us from Polemics?

Diego Sarrió Cucarella is a member of the Society of Missionaries of Africa (also known as the White Fathers). He has worked in Sudan, Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, where he directed the Bibliothèque des Sciences des Religions, at Tunis, and was part of the Groupe de recherches islamo-chrétien (GRIC). He holds a licentiate in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI, Rome) and a PhD in Theological and Religious Studies from Georgetown University (Washington DC). His research and publications focus on the intellectual history of Muslim-Christian relations and the continuing reciprocal theological constructions that this history has bequeathed to Christians and Muslims today.

He is the author of *Muslim-Christian Polemics across the Mediterranean:* The Splendid Replies of Shihāb al-Dīn al-Qarāfī (d. 684/1285) (Brill 2015). He currently lectures at the PISAI, where he is also the Rector. He also teaches at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.



DR EMMANUEL NATHAN Australian Catholic University

Betwixt and Between Bible and Scripture: Motivations for Irrigating a Liminal Field

Emmanuel Nathan is a senior lecturer in biblical studies and comparative theology. Originally specialising in New Testament studies and early Christian origins, his current research interests are in the hermeneutics and comparative study of sacred texts in the Abrahamic

traditions. He has co-edited Provoked to Speech: Biblical Hermeneutics as Conversation (Peeters, 2014) and Is there a Judeo-Christian Tradition: A European Perspective (De Gruyter, 2016). He is currently finishing up his next manuscript, Paving it Forward: The Bible from Text to Social Action (forthcoming with Peeters, 2019). Active in interreligious dialogue, Dr Nathan was appointed by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity to the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) in October 2018.



DR MAKOTO SAWAI Institute for the Study of Religion, Tenri University

Following the Foundress of Tenrikyo: the Role of Religions for Deeper Learning

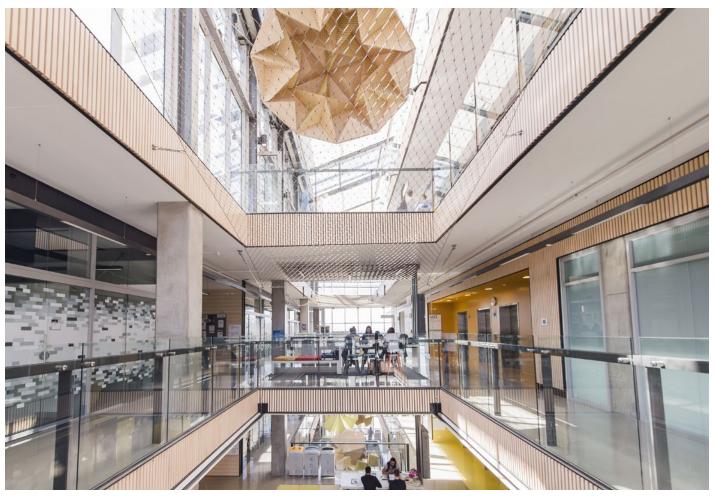
After receiving MA from American University in Cairo, Makoto Sawai was granted a PhD from Tohoku University in 2015. His major is Religious studies and Islamic studies. He received a teaching licence of Tenrikyo in 2006. In 2016, he executed his comparative theology project of Tenrikyo as visiting scholar of the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, which was hosted by Professor Francis Clooney SJ. He has been interested in the idea of Adam in Islamic mystical thought. His latest publication is *Re-experiencing the Myth of Adam: the Primordial Covenant on Junayd's Idea of Fanā' and Baqā'* (2018).



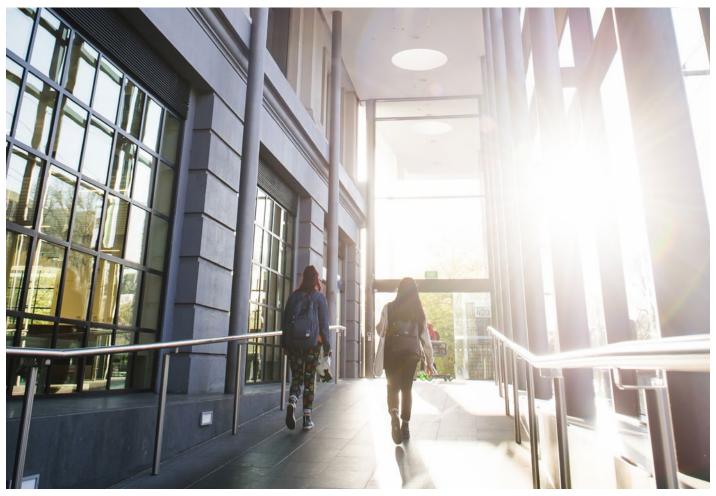
THE REV DR YESUDASAN REMIAS KU Leuven

The Metaphor, God is warrior, in Bhagavad-Gītā and Deutero-Isaiah: Cognitive Metaphor Theory in Comparative Theology

Yesudasan Remias is a Catholic priest belonging to the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum, Kerala, India. He is currently a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium. His research is focused on the study of divine metaphors in Deutero-Isaiah of the Bible and in Bhagavad Gītā of the epic Mahābhārata. His most recent essay published in *Studies in Interreligious Dialogue* (2018) elucidates his ability in bridging diverse academic disciplines. His research interests include: Prophetic Literature of Old Testament, Hinduism, Comparative Theology and Cognitive Metaphor Theory.



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Breakout sessions

Each breakout session features six speakers presenting in parallel sessions in different rooms. Topics are loosely arranged around the four conference themes. Each session will run for 30 minutes with 15 minutes for discussion.

Breakout 1

Tuesday afternoon, July 23 3:00 – 3:45 pm

Breakout 2

Wednesday afternoon, July 24 1:15 – 2:00 pm

Breakout 3

Wednesday afternoon, July 24 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Conference streams

Presenters will engage one of the following four key streams in light of the overall conference theme of 'religious identity' and comparative theology:

1. HERMENEUTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES (HM)

Hermeneutical and methodological issues in comparative theology or theology in general.

- Dr Antonia Pizzey. Lecturer in Theology, ACU, Brisbane Campus.
- Andrew Kingsford. Comparative Theology Focus Group, Melbourne, Australia.
- Prof Michael Stoeber. Scarboro Missions Chair in Interreligious Dialogue. Regis College, Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto, Canada.
- Mr Michael Atkinson. Doctoral Candidate, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

2. INTERRELIGIOUS LEARNING (IL)

The intersection of comparative theology with interreligious learning and/or interfaith dialogue. This stream contains contributions on the pedagogies of interreligious encounter (interfaith education, education in a multi-faith context, education in a dialogical context).

- The Rev. Assoc. Prof John Dupuche. University of Divinity, Melbourne.
- Dr Amanda Burritt. Lecturer, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne).
 Dr Katharine Massam. University of Divinity, Melbourne.
- Prof Constant Mews. Director, Centre for Religious Studies, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University, Melbourne.
- The Rev. Dr Albertus Bagus Laksana SJ. Sanata Dharma University, School of Theology, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Prof Celestina Omoso Isiramen. Department of Religious Management & Cultural Studies, Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria.

3. SACRED TEXTS, LITURGIES AND LITERATURE (STLL)

An in-depth analysis and comparison of sacred texts, literature or liturgical rites from two discrete religious traditions.

- Assoc. Prof John D'Arcy May. Trinity College Dublin, Australian Catholic University.
- Ven. Assoc. Prof Alex Bruce. Australian National University, College of Law and University of Oxford (DPhil Theology Candidate.), Ordained Buddhist Monk in the Tibetan Tradition.
- Assoc. Prof Amy Yu Fu. Dept. of English, Zhejiang University City College, Hangzhou, China.
- Prof Ismail Albayrak. Professor of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, ACU, Melbourne Campus.
- Dr Suleyman Sertkaya. Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Charles Sturt University, Melbourne.
- Dr Hakan Coruh. Islamic Studies, Charles Sturt University, Sydney campus.
- Mr Fatih Tuncer. Whittlesea City Council, Melbourne.

4. COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY AS PERFORMANCE (CTP)

This stream contains papers from theorists and practitioners across the fields of music, art, poetry, cinema and theatre. All papers in this stream contain a component of comparative theology or interreligious learning.

- Dr Christopher Longhurst. Lecturer in theology, The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa, New Zealand.
- Philip Morrissey. Former Academic Coordinator of the Australian Indigenous Studies program at the University of Melbourne, is of Kalkadoon and colonial Irish descent.

Tuesday 23 July, 3–3.45pm Breakout Session 1

(HM) ROOM 6	(IL) ROOM 8	(IL) ROOM 12	(STLL) ROOM 9	(STLL) ROOM 4	(CTP) ROOM 2
Andrew Kingsford Saiva Ritual Defended - and Repudiated? A Comparison of the views of Arumuga Navalar and J.M. Nallaswami Pillai.	Dr Amanda Burritt Dr Katharine Massam Stories of Faith.	The Rev. Dr Albertus Bagus Laksana SJ Comparative Theology and Inter-religious Learning: Religious Identity and Citizenship in a Plural Society.	Assoc. Prof John DArcy May Non-duality: A Christian Option?	Prof Ismail Albayrak The notion of spiritual narrowness, spiritual breadth and inner peace in the context of the believers life under hardship: with special references to Said Nursi and Aleksander Solzhenitsyn.	Dr Christopher Longhurst Interfaith Dialogue through Comparative Theology in Abstract Pictorial Art.

Wednesday 24 July, 1.15–2pm Breakout Session 2

(HM) ROOM 2	(IL) ROOM 8	(STLL) ROOM 12	(STLL) ROOM 9	(CTP) ROOM 6	(HM) ROOM 4
Prof Michael Stoeber Indigenous and Roman Catholic Canonizations of Nicholas Black Elk: Postcolonial Issues and Inter-religious Implications of Black Elk Speaks.	The Rev. Assoc. Prof John Dupuche Comparative theology and religious education in Catholic Schools.	Ven. Assoc. Prof Alex Bruce Self & Salvation in Evagrius Ponticus and Tsongkhapa.	Dr Suleyman Sertkaya The Concept of Infallibility: A Comparative Approach.	Philip Morrissey "We have a Law now": A story of Being from the Aboriginal tradition.	Dr Antonia Pizzey I am Who I am because of Who We All Are: Exploring Links between Comparative Theology and Receptive Ecumenism.

Wednesday 24 July, 2–3pm Breakout Session 3

(HM) ROOM 2	(IL) ROOM 8	(IL) ROOM 12	(STLL) ROOM 9	(STLL) ROOM 6	(STLL) ROOM 4
Mr Michael Atkinson Reciprocal illumination: extending the theory.	Prof Constant Mews Songlines and Sacred Teaching: Aquinas, Charlesworth and renewing contemplative pedagogies.	Prof Celestina Omoso Isiramen Religious Identity: A Pedagogy for Interreligious Education among Nigerian Christians.	Assoc. Prof Amy Yu Fu Selfhood and the "Unity of Knowing and Action": Comparative Study of Wang Yang- ming and Swami Vivekanandas Thought.	Dr Hakan Coruh The Notion of Wisdom (Hebrew hokhmah; Arabic hikmah) in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic Traditions.	Mr Fatih Tuncer Was Rumi a Comparative Theologian?

Breakout session streams

(HM) Hermeneutical and methodological issues

(IL) Interreligious learning

(STLL) Sacred texts, liturgies and literature (CTP) Comparative theology as performance

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Presentation topics

THE REV. DR ALBERTUS BAGUS LAKSANA SJ

Sanata Dharma University School of Theology, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Comparative Theology and Inter-religious Learning: Religious Identity and Citizenship in a Plural Society.

PROF MICHAEL STOEBER

Scarboro Missions Chair in Interreligious Dialogue. Regis College, Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto, Canada

Indigenous and Roman Catholic Canonizations of Nicholas Black Elk: Postcolonial Issues and Inter-religious Implications of Black Elk Speaks.

PROF CELESTINA OMOSO ISIRAMEN

Department of Religious Management & Cultural Studies, Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria

Religious Identity: A Pedagogy for Interreligious Education among Nigerian Christians.

ANDREW KINGSFORD

Comparative Theology Focus Group, Melbourne, Australia

Saiva Ritual Defended - and Repudiated? A Comparison of the views of Arumuga Navalar and J.M. Nallaswami Pillai.

ASSOC. PROF JOHN DARCY MAY

Trinity College Dublin, Australian Catholic University

Non-duality: A Christian Option?

THE REV. ASSOC. PROF JOHN DUPUCHE

University of Divinity, Melbourne

Comparative theology and religious education in Catholic Schools.

DR AMANDA BURRITT

Lecturer, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne DR KATHARINE MASSAM University of Divinity, Melbourne

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Stories of Faith

PROF CONSTANT MEWS

Director, Centre for Religious Studies, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University, Melbourne

Songlines and Sacred Teaching: Aquinas, Charlesworth and renewing contemplative pedagogies.

MICHAEL ATKINSON

Doctoral Candidate, La Trobe University, Melbourne

Reciprocal illumination: extending the theory.

DR ANTONIA PIZZEY

Lecturer in Theology, ACU, Brisbane Campus

I am Who I am because of Who We All Are: Exploring Links between Comparative Theology and Receptive Ecumenism.

DR SULEYMAN SERTKAYA

Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Charles Sturt University, Melbourne

The Concept of Infallibility: A Comparative Approach.

VENERABLE ASSOC. PROF ALEX BRUCE

Australian National University, College of Law and University of Oxford (DPhil Theology Candidate), Ordained Buddhist Monk in the Tibetan Tradition

Self & Salvation in Evagrius Ponticus and Tsongkhapa.

DR HAKAN CORUH

Islamic Studies, Charles Sturt University, Sydney campus

The Notion of Wisdom (Hebrew hokhmah; Arabic hikmah) in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic Traditions.

ASSOC. PROF AMY YU FU

Dept. of English, Zhejiang University City College, Hangzhou,

Selfhood and the "Unity of Knowing and Action": Comparative Study of Wang Yang-ming and Swami Vivekanandas Thought.

FATIH TUNCER

Whittlesea City Council, Melbourne

Was Rumi a Comparative Theologian?

DR CHRISTOPHER LONGHURST

Lecturer in theology, The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa, New Zealand

Interfaith Dialogue through Comparative Theology in Abstract Pictorial Art.

PROFISMAIL ALBAYRAK

Professor of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, ACU, Melbourne Campus

The notion of spiritual narrowness, spiritual breadth and inner peace in the context of the believers life under hardship: with special references to Said Nursi and Aleksander Solzhenitsyn

PHILIP MORRISSEY

FORMER Academic Coordinator of the Australian Indigenous Studies program at the University of Melbourne

"We have a Law now": A story of Being from the Aboriginal tradition.

Poster session topics

MS NAOMI WOLFE

Aboriginal Academic. Lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Arts, Australian Catholic University.

Doing Indigenous theologies: the challenges and the blessings for comparative theology.

THE REV DR XIAOLI YANG

Xiaoli lectures at Whitley College, University of Divinity, Melbourne. She is also a member of the Comparative Theology Focus Group at ACU and is an ordained Baptist minister in Melbourne.

Tian in Chinese Poetry, Heaven in Christian faith.

THE REV DR JANE LEE

Australian Anglican parish priest in Adelaide (South Australia). She has taught theology at Trinity College, University of Divinity and St. Barnabas College in Adelaide.

Take off your shoes. Bridge Building for God's World. The Work of Romano Guardini and Henri Le Saux (Abhishiktananda).

SEBEESH JACOB

Research Assistant and PhD scholar, Faculty of Theology and Religious studies, KU Leuven.

Inculturational Art in Christian Worship and Religious Education: A Case study.

DR OGUGUA PATRICIA ANWULUORAH

Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe (Nigeria).

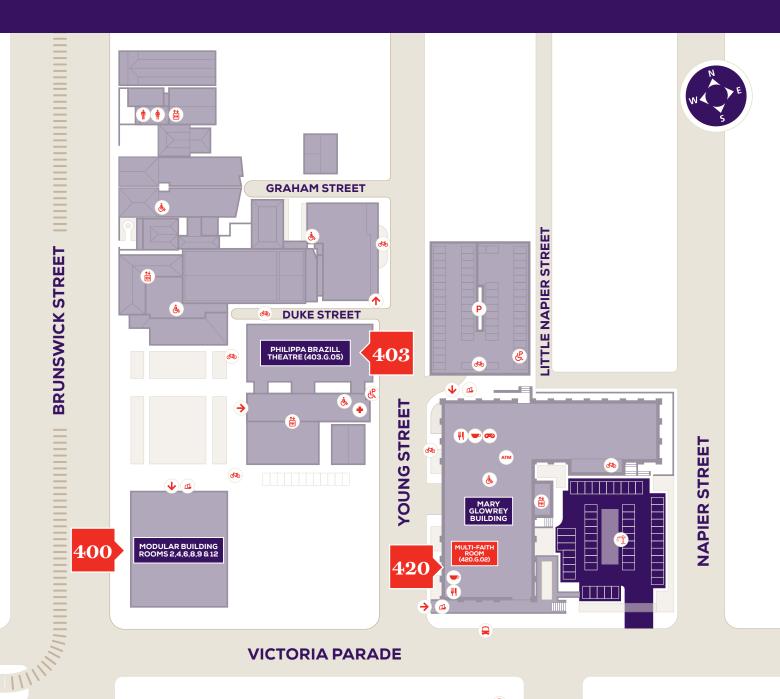
Ana-Herme-Dialogics as a method of understanding cultures and avoiding religious conflict in Nigeria.



Notes



Conference map



How to read room numbers Room example: **420.1.01** (Building **420**.Level **1**. Room **01**)

KEY

- 🗪 Cafe
- First aid
- **are** located in every building
 - Accessible bathrooms
 - M Bike racks
- Bus station
- Tram station
- P General parking
- & Accessible parking
- Accessible ramp

LOCATIONS

- Modular building Breakout sessions in rooms 2,4,6,8,9 & 12
- The Daniel Mannix Building Philippa Brazill Theatre (403.G.05) 403
- Mary Glowrey Building Lunch in South Café



Our campus is easily accessible by public transport, including bus and tram stops right at the front door. If you like to ride, we have plenty of places to park your bike and end-of-ride facilities.

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acu.edu.au/ctconf2019

