

Report of the ICLA Research Committee

“Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies”

In receiving the approval letter from the ICLA Research Committee, signed by Prof. César Domínguez on May 13th 2011, the person-in-charge of the ICLA Research Committee “Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies” handed in the detailed report on specific research purposes and expected achievements in this academic year. What has been done and has been doing could be briefly summed up as follows:

We have edited and published three special issues of *Journal for the Study of Christian Culture* (biannually published in Beijing and Hong Kong since 1998), separately entitled “Scriptural Reasoning” (vol. 25, 2011), “Missionaries and Chinese Classics” (vol. 26, 2012) and “The Translation and Interpretation of Scriptures” (vol. 27, 2012), all of which would be taken to the ICLA executive council meeting at the University of Chicago in the coming September.

We have organized two summer institutes, co-sponsored by Renmin University of China and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, “Translation, Interpretation and Scriptural Reasoning” in the July of 2011 and “Liberal Arts, Classical Studies and Theological Resources” in the August of 2012. The key-note speakers of the summer institutes include David Jasper (University of Glasgow, UK), Roland Boer (University of Newcastle, AUS), Trevor Hart (University of St Andrews, UK), Eric Ziolkowski (Lafayette College, USA), Andrew Hass (University of Stirling, UK), Robert Chard (University of Oxford, UK), Daniel Williams (Baylor University, USA), Marián Gálik (Slovakia Academy of Science, Slovakia), Ralph Weber (University of Zurich, Switzerland), Lauren F. Pfister (Hong Kong Baptist University), Archie LEE (Chinese University of Hong Kong), CHIN Ken Pa (Chung Yuan Christian University), ZHAO Dunhua (Peking University), ZHUO Xinping (China Academy of Social Sciences), LIU Xiaofeng (Renmin University of China), GENG Youzhuang (Renmin University of China) and YANG Huilin (Renmin University of China).

We have been deeply involved in the dialogue of “Scriptural Reasoning” with the representative scholars in the west. For instance, in the December of 2011 the person-in-charge of the research committee YANG Huilin had a joint public lecture in Beijing with Prof. Peter

Ochs from the University of Virginia, the outcomes of which “Scriptural Reasoning: From Practice to Theory” by Ochs and “Scriptural Reasoning and Hermeneutical Circle” by YANG have been listed as key articles in 5th issue of 2012 of *Journal of Renmin University of China*. And in the February of 2012, YANG had another related dialogue in London with Prof. David Ford from the University of Cambridge and Prof. Oliver Davies from King’s College London.

The project of “A Collected Exegetical Interpretation of English Translations and Commentaries of Chinese Classics” has got 800,000 RMB (about 130,000 \$) as the financial support from 2011 to 2013 from China National Fund for Social Sciences (NFSS). All standing members of our Committee have been included in the research team. And recently we began to prepare a roundtable on “Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature” for ICLA conference at Paris in the coming July.

Next Monday (August 27th), we would have a seminar co-sponsored by the University of Glasgow and Renmin University of China on “Scriptural Reasoning: Its Meaning and Context”, to continue our mutually promoted research and discuss the details of a joint publication in English (*Literature and Theology*, Oxford) and Chinese (*Journal for the Study of Christian Culture*, Renmin University of China).

Person-in-charge of the Committee: Prof. Yang Huilin

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Attachment: invitation letter to the roundtable participants of the ICLA conference in 2013

August 6, 2012

My Dear Colleagues,

For the conference of International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) at Paris on July 18-24 of 2013, I have been asked to organize a roundtable on “Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature”, to continue our mutually promoted research and exploration. Now I would like to take the honor of inviting you as one of the 13 speakers at the roundtable, which is most probably scheduled on July 19, including four 90-minute-sessions. Please let me know at

your earliest convenience if this will match your time and interest. Personally, I believe it will be a very good opportunity to make your insights demonstrated in a much greater space and share the spirit of Scriptural Reasoning with the huge group of scholars in literary studies.

The 13 nominated scholars at the roundtable (to be confirmed) are as follows:

Prof. Jean-Francois Vergnaud, Université Paul Valéry, ifc.renmin@gmail.com

Prof. Sophie Vanden Abeele, Université Sorbonne, c/o ifc.renmin@gmail.com

Prof. David Ford, University of Cambridge, fvc20@cam.ac.uk or dff1000@cam.ac.uk

Prof. David Jasper, University of Glasgow, David.Jasper@glasgow.ac.uk

Prof. Oliver Davies, King's College London, oliver.davies@kcl.ac.uk

Prof. Peter Ochs, University of Virginia, pwo3v@cms.mail.virginia.edu

Prof. Haun Saussy, University of Chicago, hsaussy@uchicago.edu

Prof. Chloe Starr, University of Yale, cfstarr@gmail.com

Prof. Zhang Longxi, City University of Hong Kong, ctlxzh@cityu.edu.hk

Prof. Zhang Hui, Peking University, beidazhanghui@gmail.com

Prof. Liu Yunhua, Shanghai Normal University, c/o beidazhanghui@gmail.com

Prof. Geng Youzhuang, Renmin University of China, geng802@yahoo.com.cn

Prof. Yang Huilin, Renmin University of China, yanghuilin@ruc.edu.cn

Since the 1990s, comparative readings of Judaic, Christian and Islamic scriptures have attracted more and more attentions. The so-called “Scriptural Reasoning” unfolded by such comparative readings has become an important inter-disciplinary field of Religious Studies and Comparative Literature. Although originally “Scriptural Reasoning” focused more on the Judaic, Christian and Islamic scriptures, namely the Abrahamic tradition, growing attention has been focused upon comparative studies between these scriptures and Chinese Classics. Many scholars gradually have agreed that the Chinese Classics translated by Western Missionaries as well as the commentaries on these Classics constitute abundant resources of “Scriptural Reasoning”, and such resources will naturally help the comparative studies become genuinely intercultural, inter-lingual and inter-disciplinary. As a result, the interaction and inter-relationship between theoretical research and textual studies could be greatly strengthened.

If you could join us, please send the abstract of your presentation and a short biography via the website <http://icla-aile-2013.paris-sorbonne.fr> and the e-mail of Prof. Zhang Hui (beidazhanghui@gmail.com) or me (yanghuilin@ruc.edu.cn). I am sincerely looking forward to seeing you at Paris.

With best wishes,

Yang Huilin

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Co-President of China Comparative Literature Association,

Vice-President of Renmin University of China

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