

ICLA Research Committee on "Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature"

In the past year, the Research Committee on "Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature" has been promoting and fostering the spirit of Scriptural Reasoning by sponsoring the following academic events:

1. **International Conferences:**

- International workshops for young scholars in ancient textual comparative studies: This workshop runs biannually since June 17-24, 2017, and each time four distinguished scholars will be invited to give lectures on ancient classical studies and ancient civilizations, and 40 junior faculty members and PhD students will be invited to participate with their own research proposals. So far SR Research Committee has helped run three workshops with different themes: "Canonical Texts and Commentaries," "Manuscripts and Materiality of Text," (Jan. 5-13, 2018) and "Ancient Historiography in Comparison" (June 13-18, 2018). This is another way to practice and live out the spirit of Scriptural Reasoning because each one is forced to compare their own research with similar research interest from other civilizations. The spirit of being open-minded and inclusive is encouraged in such workshops.
- Annual "Confucius China Studies Program" PhD Forum: On June 7-8, 2018 the third annual CCSP PhD Forum will be on, and 16 students will present their papers in 1.5 days. CCSP is a scholarship sponsoring international PhD students in the area of humanities and social sciences, whose research topics are related to China. This scholarship supports students to study in China as an exchange students or full-time student. The Forum provides a platform for these students to exchange and learn from each other while they are in China. Because their research topics are varied and crossing many disciplines, the Forum has become a good channel for students from all parts of the world.
- Other conferences: SR research committee has hosted and supported the following conferences:
 - ** August 18-20, 2017 at the 12th biennial congress of Chinese Comparative Literature Association SR Research Committee hosted a panel under the theme of "Literature, Arts and Religions in the Post-Secular Perspective."
 - ** September 23-24, 2017 International symposium on "Socialism in Power."
 - ** October 28-29, the Executive Council Meeting of the World Conference on Sinology and international conference on "Understanding China: The Relevance of Sinologies."
 - ** December 7, 2017, Special Symposium of Nishan Forum on World Civilizations on "China's New Era and the Construction of A Shared Future Community of Humanity."
 - ** December 12, 2017, a cultural event of the Embassy of Argentina, Beijing, "Favor de Buenos Aires: What You Should Know about Argentine Literature."
 - ** April 6-7, 2018, International Conference on "Manuscripts and Materiality of Text."

2. **Lectures:** In the past year, SR Research Committee has invited many scholars to lecture at RUC.

- June 16, 2017, Professor Eric Ziolkowski (Lafayette College), "Fleeing and Escape in Augustine's Confessions and Kierkegaard's Repetition: Two Instantiations of a Universal Motif."
- June 20, 2017, Professor Miton Wan (Chinese University of Hong Kong), "Self-transcendence in the Presence of a Significant Other: Zen Practice of Enlightenment and Christian Spiritual Guidance."
- July 6, 2017, Professor Tat-siong Benny Liew (Holy Cross College), "Journey-s to the West and Journey-s without Rest: (Re)Writing Scripts, Scriptures, and Scripturalization."
- Sept. 13 to Oct. 18, 2017, Professor David Jasper (University of Glasgow), "Understanding Literature, Understanding Culture."
- October 25, 2017, Professor Nicolas Standaert (KU Leuven), "Fate of Tiku: History of Ancient China in the Writing of 17/18th Century Chinese Writers and European Missionaries."
- October 27, 2017, Professor Zhang Longxi (Hongkong City University), "History of Literature and the World History of Literature."
- November 9, 2017, Professor Paul Goldin (University of Pennsylvania), "What is Qi and Why is it a Good Idea?"
- November 20, 2017, Professor Phillip J. Donnelly (Baylor University), "Milton's Art of Logic as an Art of Poetry: A Rhetorical Reading of Paradise Lost, Book 2" and "Rethinking the Western Liberal Arts Tradition: Great Texts at Baylor University."
- December 11-15, 2017, Professor Santiago Zabala (Pompeu Fabra University), "Being at Large: Hermeneutics, Communism and Art."
- May 15, 2018, Professor John Baines (Oxford University), together with Dr. Maria Cannata (Peking University), "Ancient Egyptian Scripts and Their Range of Usage."

3. **Publication:**

SR Research Committee oversaw the edition and publication of issues 38 (theme: Différence and Êcart) and 39 (theme: Post-Secular Era) of the *Journal for the Study of Christian Culture*. The project related to *T'oung Pao*, one of the leading academic journals on sinology worldwide, is undergoing well. The purpose of the project is to find the good translators of different languages and present some good-quality research materials for Chinese scholars so that the Chinese scholars in the area of humanities may find some inspirations after reading the "scriptural reasoning" activities in these foreigners' writings about China.

Drafted by

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