

International interdisciplinary scientific conference

Christian World and East Asian Traditions: Symbols, Concepts, Practices



September 18-20, 2014 Kaunas, Lithuania

Centre for Asian Studies, Department of Philosophy,
Faculty of Catholic Theology

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

More information will be available on websites: asc.vdu.lt,
www.filosofija.vdu.lt and www.teologija.vdu.lt

In the age of globalization, an increasing variety of cultures and cultural “intermixture” are noticeable both in the East and in the West. The global market, political efforts to collaborate, possibility to communicate via the Internet despite the distance, an endeavour to understand and to be understood stimulate homogenization. The big cities in different parts of the world, which become more and more similar to each other, may be an excellent example of this. However, symbols, images, philosophical notions and ethical values arising from such traditions as Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto and Chan or Zen Buddhism are still easily recognizable as the distinctive features of the so-called Eastern way of thinking and are identified with the East Asian cultures. Christian tradition is still the basis for the Western worldview despite the consume-rism, growing secularism and pervasive process of religious amalgamation in many Western societies. In the West, philosophy, politics, economy, law, arts and other essential areas of human life have been created and modified according to the Christian worldview for many ages. As a result, we can talk about the “Christian world” despite the lessening power of Christianity as a religion in many societies.

The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers from a wide range of disciplines, interested in the interrelationship between the Christian world and the traditions of East Asia in various areas such as philosophy, religious studies, social and political sciences, literature and arts. The conference will provide an opportunity for lively discussion and comparison between traditions and disciplines which will help generate more insightful interpretations of particular fundamental notions and improve understanding of various processes in the contemporary world.

The conference panels include (but are not restricted to):

- The task for comparative thinking (perennial questions and particular answers in comparativist perspective)
- Religious interaction (Christianity in the East Asia; East Asian traditions in the Christian world)
- Images, imagination and imitation in arts, media, cinematography, literature, politics, business, etc.
- Historical and contemporary encounters and confrontations
- Reception of Asian traditions in Lithuania

Please submit an abstract of your paper of 250-300 words (500 words if your paper will be presented not in English), together with your name, position, and institutional affiliation to **religio@ktf.vdu.lt** and to **a.budriunaite@gmail.com** by April 30, 2014. The abstract should be sent as an email attachment in Microsoft Word format. Each proposal will undergo a peer review process.

All papers accepted for and presented at the conference will be eligible for publication in the open access scientific journal 'International Journal of Area Studies' (former 'Regioninės studijos', reviewed in CEEOL, eLABa) published by the Centre for Asian Studies at Vytautas Magnus University and the scientific journal 'Soter' published by the Faculty of Catholic Theology at Vytautas Magnus University (reviewed in CEEOL, The Philosopher's Index, eLABa, DOAJ).

Conference languages: English, Lithuanian.

Conference fee is 30 € (EUR). Unfortunately, there are no funds available at the time to cover the accommodation- or travel-expenses.

Important dates:

Submission of proposals – April 30, 2014

Notification of acceptance – May 30, 2014

Publication of the program – June 30, 2014

Scientific committee:

Agnė BUDRIŪNAITĖ (chair, Centre for Asian Studies and Department of Philosophy, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Nanlai CAO (Renmin University, Peoples Republic of China), Shiun-vey HUANG (National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan), Takeshi SUZUKI (Meiji University, Japan), Yen-zen TSAI (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), Masaaki KUBONIWA (Hitotsubashi University, Japan), Pál NYIRI (VU University Amsterdam), Bin YOU (Minzu University, Peoples Republic of China), Bai-ku WEI (National Chengchi University, Taiwan).

Organizing committee:

Aurelijus ZYKAS (chair, Centre for Asian Studies, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Živilė ADVILONIENĖ (Faculty of Catholic Theology, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Benas ULEVIČIUS (Faculty of Catholic Theology, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Arvydas KUMPIS (Centre for Asian Studies, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Kristina GEDMINAITĖ (Centre for Asian Studies, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania).