List of Speakers – ISP Christianity in Asia 2014

University of Münster, Germany

**Michael Amaladoss, S.J.**, has a PhD in sacramental theology from the Institut Catholique of Paris. He has been a professor of dogmatic theology at Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi from 1973-83 and 1995-2010. He has also taught at other theological institutes in Manila, Paris, Bruxelles, Cincinnati, Washington and Berkeley. He has been a consultant to the Pontifical Councils of Interreligious Dialogue and Culture and the World Council of Churches. He was the president of the International Association of Mission Studies. He is the author of 30 books and over 430 articles. Some of his books have been translated into many languages.

**Allan Heaton Anderson** is Professor of Global Pentecostal Studies at the University of Birmingham, England, where he has worked since 1995. Prior to this he lived and worked in Southern Africa. He is author of several books on Pentecostalism worldwide, the latest being To the Ends of the Earth: Pentecostalism and the Transformation of World Christianity (Oxford, 2013), Spreading Fires: The Missionary Nature of Early Pentecostalism (SCM & Orbis, 2007) and An Introduction to Pentecostalism (Cambridge, 2004, 2nd edition forthcoming).

**Wesley Ariarajah**, Methodist Minister from Sri Lanka, is currently Professor of Ecumenical Theology at the Drew University School of Theology. Before joining Drew, he served the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, as Director of its Interfaith Dialogue Program for 12 years and later as the Deputy General Secretary of the Council. His publications include, The Bible and People of Other Faiths, Hindus and Christians: A Century of Protestant Ecumenical Thought, Not without My Neighbour: Issues in Interfaith Relations, Axis of Peace:
Christian Faith in Times of Conflict and War, and Your God, My God and Our God –
Rethinking Christian Faith for Religious Plurality.

**Julius Bautista** is an anthropologist and cultural historian whose research interest is in religion in Southeast Asia, particularly Christianity in the Philippines. He teaches courses in religious studies, politics and culture at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore where he is a Senior Lecturer. Concurrently, he is an Associate at the Asia Research Institute's Religion and Globalization in Asian Contexts Cluster. Dr. Bautista is author of "Figuring Catholicism: An Ethno history of the Santo Nino de Cebu" (2010) and co-editor (with Francis Lim) of "Christianity and the State in Asia: Complicity and Conflict" (2009).

**Paul Joshua Bhakiaraj** is an Elder at a local church, and serves as a Lecturer in Theology at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies, Bangalore, which is a specialised study centre of the University of Mysore. Areas of his academic interest include engagement of Christianity with the diverse cultures & religions of Asia; theology for Christianity’s role and presence in society. He has published a number of articles in journals and in books such as *Atlas of Global Christianity* (Edinburgh: 2009) and has co-edited *Missiology for the 21st Century: South Asian Perspectives* (Delhi, 2004) and *Indian & Christian: Changing Identities in Modern India* (Bangalore, 2011).

**Sharon A. Bong** is Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University, Malaysia. She is author of *The Tension Between Women’s Rights and Religions: The Case of Malaysia* (2006) and former Coordinator of the Ecclesia of Women in Asia, an academic forum of Catholic women theologizing in Asia. She is also a forum writer, Asian region with the Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, research associate with
the Forum for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Race and Religion and patron for the Catherine of Siena Virtual College.

**Jose Mario C. Francisco, S.J.** lectures and writes on issues relating cultural studies, science and theology in Asian contexts. He has taught at Loyola School of Theology and East Asian Pastoral Institute at the Ateneo de Manila University and at Boston College as Gasson Professor. He published critical editions of 17th century Philippine manuscripts, *Science, Religion and Culture in the Jesuit Tradition* (2006), and contributed to *Christianities in Asia* (2011), *Cambridge History of Christianity Volume 8* (2006), and *The Dictionary of Asian Christianity* (2001). His lectures at Asian Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University and Queen’s University Belfast have been published recently.

**Jude Lal Fernando** (Ph.D.) is a Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin and lectures on ‘Religions and Ethics in a Pluralist World’ and ‘Armed Conflict, Peace Building and Development in Guatemala, Niger Delta and Sri Lanka’. He also teaches ‘Peace and Conflict in South Asia’ in Dublin City University and ‘World Religions and Interfaith Dialogue’ at Carlow College, Carlow. His first monograph, *A Paradigm for a Peace Movement: Thich Nhat Hanh and Martin Luther King Jr.* explores the potential in Buddhism and Christianity for peace building. His two main areas of expertise are ‘Religion, Conflict and Peace’ and ‘Armed Conflicts, Geopolitics and Human Rights’. Fernando is a founding member of the Irish Forum for Peace in Sri Lanka (IFPSL).

**Ananta Kumar Giri** is currently on the faculty of Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India and has worked and taught in many universities in India and abroad including University of Kentucky, USA; Aalborg University, Denmark and University of Freiburg,

**Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. He graduated from the universities of Oxford, Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne. He has held visiting fellowships at the Rajaratnam
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**Norbert Hintersteiner** (Austria) is Professor in Missiology and the Study of Theologies Beyond Europe at the University of Münster, Germany. He received his Ph.D. at the Jesuit Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule in St.Georgen / Frankfurt. Previously he has worked at Trinity College Dublin; The Catholic University of America in Washington DC; the Universities of Vienna and Mainz; and the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. He specializes in World Christianity and cross-cultural theology, comparative theology (with Hinduism and Islam), and the study of religions. His book publications include: *Traditionen überschreiten: Angloamerikanische Beiträge zur interkulturellen Traditionshermeneutik* (2001); *Naming and Thinking God in Europe Today: Theology in Global Dialogue* (2007, editor); *Postcolonial Europe in the Crucible of Cultures* (2007, co-editor); *Thinking the Divine in Interreligious Encounter* (2012, editor).

**Dennis Hirota** is professor of Shin Buddhist Studies at Ryukoku University, Kyoto. He has published books and articles in both Japanese and English on Japanese Pure Land Buddhist tradition, particularly the thought of Shinran, founder of the Jōdo Shinshū school, and Ippen, founder of the Ji school. He is the Head Translator of *The Collected Works of Shinran* (Kyoto, 1997), and other publications include *Asura’s Harp: Engagement with Language as Buddhist Path* (Heidelberg, 2006), *Toward a Contemporary Understanding of Pure Land Buddhism* (State University of New York Press, 2000), and *No Abode: The Record of Ippen* (University of Hawaii

**Sebastian Kim** is Chair of Theology and Public Life in the Faculty of Education & Theology of York St John University, UK. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and an Executive Committee member of the Global Network for Public Theology. He is the author of *In Search of Identity: Debates on Religious Conversion in India* (OUP, 2003), *Theology in the Public Sphere* (SCM Press, 2011), co-author of *Christianity as a World Religion* (Continuum, 2008), and edited number of books including *Christian Theology in Asia* (CUP, 2008). Kim was formerly Director of the Christianity in Asia Project and taught World Christianity at the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Cambridge. Previous to that, he taught at the Cambridge Theological Federation, Cambridge, the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul, and the Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, India. He is founding and current Editor of the *International Journal of Public Theology* and his research interests include: public theology; world Christianity; Asian theology; religion and peace-building; religion and post-modern society.

**Albertus Bagus Laksana, S. J.**, teaches at Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He received his PhD in comparative theology from Boston College (2011) with a focus on Muslim-Christian encounters. Previously he was educated at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachussets. In 2011-2012 he was a postdoctoral fellow at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. His research interests and publications include topics in Muslim-Christian comparative theology (especially the role of pilgrimage, saints and sacred space) and theology of religions, mission studies, theology and culture, and Asian theologies. He
is also the managing editor of *Basis*, a journal of culture and religion, based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

**Archie C.C. Lee** has been a professor at the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Being a Bible scholar who is dedicated to doing theology in Asia, he develops a reading strategy of interpreting the Bible cross-textually, taking his religio-cultural and socio-political texts into the reading process of understanding the Bible. He is the founding president of Society of Asian Biblical Studies SABS, 2006). He is currently on the Council of Society of Bible Literature. Besides numerous books in Chinese on naming God in China and textual practice and identity making of Chinese Christians, he was associate editor of *Global Bible Commentary* (Abingdon Press, 2004) and serve on the editorial committee of *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). Recent publications include: “When the Flood Narrative of Genesis Meets its Counterpart in China: Reception and Challenge in Cross-Textual Reading,” *Genesis: Text @ Context* (2010) and “Cross-textual Hermeneutics and Identity in Multi-textual Asia,” *Christian Theology in Asia: Emerging Forms and Themes*, (Cambridge, 2008).

**Swee Hong Lim** is the Deer Park Assistant Professor of Sacred Music and Director of the Master of Sacred Music program at Emmanuel College, the University of Toronto, Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Church Music from the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, Manila, Master of Sacred Music from Southern Methodist University, Texas, and PhD in liturgical studies from Drew University, New Jersey.

**Gudrun Löwner**, born in Bochum Germany in 1958, studied protestant theology and comparative religion in Bochum, Wuppertal, Heidelberg and Geneva. She got her Ph.D. from
Heidelberg University on “Religion and development in Sri Lanka”. She taught at Heidelberg and Wuppertal University. Her areas of research are Buddhism, India and art. For her intensive academic work and social work in India, she was awarded in 2008 the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. Presently she teaches in Bangalore.


Daniel Franklin Pilario is a professor and present Dean of St. Vincent School of Theology, Adamson University in Quezon City, Philippines. He received his licentiate and doctorate in theology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) in 1998 and 2002, respectively. His work Back to the Rough Grounds of Praxis (Peeters, 2005) won the Jan en Marie Huyge Prijs of the Academische Stichting Leuven in Belgium. He also works in the Editorial Board of theological journals like Concilium, Hapag, Asian Christian Review and Adamson University Journal. He is a member of the Congregation of the Mission, a founding member and former President of DAKATEO (Catholic Theological Society of the Philippines).
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Beyond the Dysfunctional Family: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Dialogue with one another and with Britain (Edited with others) London: The Manor House Abrahamic Group (2012)


Edmond Tang was born and educated in Hong Kong. After studying theology at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium he taught in the Holy Spirit Seminary in Hong Kong before joining Pro Mundi Vita, an international research centre in Brussels, at their Asia Desk in 1978. He moved to Britain in 1990 to work as the China secretary of the Council of Churches in Britain
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**Herman Teule** studied Semitic languages, theology and religious studies at the Universities of Amsterdam and Louvain. He is currently professor Eastern Christianity at the Universities of Nijmegen and Louvain and Head of the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Nijmegen. His research interests focus on the interaction between Syriac and Arabic Christianity and the cultural and religious world of Islam, especially in the period of the Syriac Renaissance (12th-13th cent.) and the present situation of the Christian minorities in the Middle East. His recent publications include: “Christianity in Iraq. An analysis of some recent developments” in *Der Islam* (2012) and *Les chrétiens d’Irak: Quelle place dans la société?* Paris, 2013. He is consultant of the Vatican Congregation of the Eastern Churches and of the ecumenical Association Pro Oriente (Vienna).

**Angela Wai Ching Wong** received her Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School. She is an Associate Professor of the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, and a concurrent Professor of the Chung Chi College Divinity School at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is also Head of the Graduate Division of Gender Studies and the Co-Director of Gender Research Centre of the University. Her research interests include: religion and sexuality, gender, religion and nationalism, feminist hermeneutics and religious classics, and postcolonialism and Hong Kong Christianity. Her works have been published in several professional journals both in Chinese and English. Some representative publications include: “The Poor Woman”: *A Critical Analysis of Asian Theology and Contemporary Chinese Fiction by Women* (Peter Lang, 2002), “Negotiating Gender: Postcolonialism and Hong Kong Christian Women,” in *Gender and Society in Hong Kong* (UBC Press, 2003), “Our Bodies Our Stories:
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**Richard Fox Young** holds the Timby Chair in History of Religions at Princeton Theological Seminary. An Indologist originally, *Resistant Hinduism* (1981), *The Bible Trembled* (1995), and *Vain Debates* (1996), all from the Indological Institute of the University of Vienna, are his most widely-cited monographs on the encounter of Hindus and Buddhists with Christian missions in South Asia. Most recently, he has edited *India and the Indianness of Christianity* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2009) and contributed “Horton’s ‘Intellectualist Theory’ of Conversion, Reflected on by a South Asianist” to *Beyond Conversion and Syncretism*, edited by David Lindenfeld and Miles Richardson (Berghahn Books, 2011).