Missiology
New website delivers texts in missiology and biographies about those who shaped the field

Diaspora
The CGCM and the East Rock Institute have collaborated to study the Korean diaspora community in Boston

Amos Yong
Leading Pentecostal scholar explores the meaning of the renewal of Global Christianity

New Specialization in Transcultural Studies
The School of Theology draws on CGCM resources for new M.T.S. concentration

BU School of Theology has a reputation for being strong on global and inter-cultural interests. In fact, the doctoral programs produce distinguished graduates in mission studies, conflict transformation, and related global fields. Master’s degree students seeking work with non-governmental organizations, missions or cross-cultural social service agencies, also have access to the School’s globally-focused resources. The new Transcultural Studies specialization is designed to help equip M.T.S. degree candidates for practical work in many international settings. This new program includes courses that aid students in analyzing religious and cultural worldviews, politics, economics, health, education and other factors that shape how different people live. It also offers bicultural partnerships such as periodic “missionaries in residence” appointments and is cultivating ecologically-minded relationships with field sites.
In a world of high speed networks, digital content, and massive search engines, the Theology Library is working with the Center for Global Christianity & Mission to build focused collections of digital content in order to enhance teaching and learning. The site provides access primarily to classic writings in the history of Protestant mission thought. Written by cross-cultural missionaries, mission administrators, and mission promoters, the collection contains mission theology, theory, and practice as well as some of the first ethnographic studies of people in primal societies, and histories of encounters between westerners and people from Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

The Theology Library and the CGCM are aware that they are indebted to the peoples and nations in the global south for much of this body of literature. Digitizing these sources and providing global access through the Internet is, they hope, a way to return this information to those from whom it came.

This site also provides biographical sketches and links to digitized material written by or about specific missionaries, missiologists, and mission administrators in the belief that mission theology, theory and strategy are best understood in their social context.

The Theology Library and the CGCM will continue to scan texts, collect other digital documents in the public domain, and make them available on this website. Special thanks are due to Gerald H. Anderson, editor of the Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions, for allowing this site to use biographical sketches from the dictionary, the Overseas Ministries Study Center for making their legacy and pilgrimage articles available, the digital librarian Kelly Riddle who redesigned the project, and the numerous graduate students who invested their time in building the open access website.
The team of researchers who have been working to construct the ground floor of a project to understand the establishment and growth of the Korean Diaspora community in Boston in the 1950s and 1960s presented the results of their work to date at CURA, the Institute for Culture, Religion and World Affairs on April 8th.

Dr. Dana Robert introduced the project and briefly described a meeting with Dr. Hesung Koh who helped inspire it and advanced a working relationship between the Center for Global Christianity and Mission and the East Rock Institute which is located in New Haven, Connecticut and is one of the oldest and most important Korean culture institutes.

Daewon Moon talked about the Korean Society of Boston and the first Korean church of Boston (pictured above), both founded in 1953 and how they contributed to promoting Korean Studies at the universities in the Boston area.

Hye Jin Lee spoke about Sungha Kim, a Korean BU alumnus, who made huge contributions to the development of the Korean Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library.

Dr. Doug Tzan described the methodological issues involved in the project.

A diverse group of scholars from different parts of the BU community assembled to hear the presentation, ask questions, offer advice, and commit to helping advance the project to the next level.
Amos Yong Lectures

Pentecostal Scholar Speaks about Global Renewal and P(new)matological History

Dr. Amos Yong, one of the most prolific Pentecostal scholars, and B.U. alumnus, gave two energetic and thought-provoking lectures on Pentecostal theology. He received a Ph.D. from Boston University in religion and theology under the direction of Professor Robert Neville in 1999.

In the first lecture, titled “Global Renewal & Christian Theology for the 3rd Millennium: Opportunities-Challenges,” Dr. Yong presented Pentecostalism as a renewal theology. After briefly introducing the overview of the global renewal movement, he pointed out that the global church has seen two overlapping phenomena: the gradual “Pentecostalization” and “Chrismatization” of the global church, and the “Evangelization” of the Pentecostal churches. Then, he presented the possibility of a renewal theology, distinct from classical Pentecostal theologies such as “evangelical-theology-plus.”

He ended his first lecture by introducing his upcoming book, the Renewal of Christian Theology: System and Dogmatic Reconsiderations for a Global Christianity.

In the second lecture, titled “Renewing Christian Historiography: Toward a P(new)matological History of Christian Thought,” he explored the possibility of new Christian historiography, which can challenge and complement traditional historiographic paradigms. Key features of the renewing historiography include “enthusiastic/charismatic” history of Christian thought, interfacing with the history of Christian spirituality, and hearing the unheard voices of women and the poor.

Both of the lectures were followed by numerous questions and produced lively discussions among the scholars and students present.

Transcultural Studies (continued from page 1)

that offer cross-cultural exposure without airline travel. The program will provide STH students many opportunities for inter-faith and inter-disciplinary learning outside the School’s classrooms. It will also help the School spread the word about the importance of faith communities and spiritual disciplines for the well-being of humanity and God’s creation around the world. For more information, go to: http://www.bu.edu/sth/academics/registration/.

cgcm News is edited by Daryl R. Ireland

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