

July 2018

# CHRIS WHITE

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## CURRENT POSITION

**Purdue University Center on Religion and Chinese Society**

Assistant Director

August 2018-present

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## EDUCATION

**Xiamen University** *Xiamen, Fujian, China*

September 2007-September 2011

Ph.D., Modern Chinese History

Dissertation title: *Authentically Chinese, Thoroughly Christian: Stories of Minnan Protestants, 1842-1937*

**Hong Kong Baptist University** (HKBU), *Hong Kong*

Spring 2011

Resident Graduate Student at the Lam East-West Institute (LEWI)

**University of Pittsburgh** *Pittsburgh, PA*

August 2004-April 2006

Interdisciplinary M.A., East Asian Studies

GPA 4.0

Thesis title: *Reading China's "Other" through Learning Chinese: the Portrayal of Minorities in Chinese as a Second Language Textbooks*

**Malone College** *Canton, OH*

Fall 1995-Spring 1999

B.A., History, Magna Cum Laude

GPA 3.8

- China Studies Program (CCCU) *Fudan University, Shanghai, China* Spring 1999
  - American Studies Program (CCCU) *Washington, DC* Fall 1997
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## RESEARCH

### BOOKS

- *Sacred Webs: The Social Lives and Networks of Minnan Protestants, 1840s-1920s*, (Leiden: Brill, 2017).

Reviewed in *Journal of Chinese Religions* (46.1, 2018: 90-92, by Daryl Ireland) and *Studies in World Christianity* (24.2, 2018: 174-175, by Mark McLeister)

- *Protestantism in Xiamen, Then and Now*, editor, Palgrave, 2019.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

- “Consuming Missionary Legacies in Contemporary China: Eric Liddell and Evolving Interpretations of Chinese Christian History” co-authored with Jifeng Liu, *China Information*, forthcoming, 2019.
- “Old Pastor and Local Bureaucrats: Recasting Church-State Relations in Contemporary China,” co-authored with Jifeng Liu, *Modern China*, forthcoming.
- “‘Aliens Ministering to Aliens’: RCA Missionaries among Chinese in the Philippines,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, 42.3, 2018: 230-240.
- “Appropriating Christian History in Fujian: Red Tourism Meets the Cross,” *Studies in World Christianity*, 23.1, Spring 2017: 35-50.
- “Protestant Funeral Processions in Southeast China: From *Gangnam Style* to Overt Evangelization,” *Asia Pacific Perspectives*, Spring/Summer 2015: 5-27.
- “‘To Rescue the Wretched Ones’: Saving Chinese Slave Girls in Republican China,” *Twentieth-Century China*, 39.1, 2014: 44-68. This article has been translated into Chinese for the initial issue of *Research on Gulangyu (Gulangyu Yanjiu)*, Spring 2015: 58-78.
- “Waves of Influence Across the South Seas: Mutual Support of Protestants in Minnan and Southeast Asia, 1835-1949,” *Ching Feng*, 11.1, 2012: 29-54. This article has been translated into Chinese and published in *Research on Gulangyu (Gulangyu Yanjiu)*, Spring 2017.
- “Harnessing the Church in Today’s China: The Case of Xiamen’s Xinjie Church,” *Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs*, 10.1, 2010: 53-64.
- “Understanding China’s Minorities Through Learning Chinese,” *Journal of Multicultural Discourses*, 3.2, 2008: 79-97.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Introduction: Xiamen Protestantism Over the Years,” in Chris White ed., *Protestantism in Xiamen, Then and Now*, Palgrave, 2019.
- “Xinjie Church and Christianity as Chinese Cultural Heritage,” in Chris White ed., *Protestantism in Xiamen, Then and Now*, Palgrave, 2019.
- “The Haicang Voice: Modernity, Cultural Continuity, and the Spirit World in a 1920s Church,” in Chris White ed., *Protestantism in Xiamen, Then and Now*, Palgrave, 2019.
- “Sacred Dwellings: Protestant Ancestral Halls and Homes in Southern Fujian.” Chapter in Yangwen Zheng, ed., *Sinicizing Christianity*, Brill, 2017.
- “Historical Christian Celebrations and Protestant Identity in Minnan.” In *Gospel Permeating among the People: Christianity and South Chinese Dialect Groups*, edited by K.K. Lee and Yee-cheung Lau, Alliance Bible Seminary, 2016.
- “Displaced Gods and Riceless Christians: The Process of Conversion for Early Minnan Protestants,” in *Religion Spread through the Ten Circuits: Studies in Modern Chinese Christianity through Regional Perspectives*, edited by Wong Man-kong, Kwok Wai-luen, and Lau Yee-cheung, 2013: 675-724.

## BOOK REVIEWS, NON-PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES, AND OTHER WRITINGS

- Translation of Yingheng Cheng, “‘Sing to the Lord a New Song’: The Development and Influence of Minnan Hymns,” in Chris White ed., *Protestantism in Xiamen, Then and Now*, Palgrave, 2019.
- Review of *The Cross-Cultural Legacy of Lin Yutang: Critical Perspectives* edited by Qian Suoqiao, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley (2015), *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, 14.1, 2018: 147-149.
- Review of *The Rushing on of the Purposes of God: Christian Missions in Shanxi since 1876* by Andrew T. Kaiser, Pickwick Publications (2016), *Church History*, 86.3, 2017: 939-941.
- Guest co-editor (with Mark McLeister) for special issue on Protestantism on the Chinese internet in *Chinese Law and Government*, 49.3, 2017.
- “Issues and Challenges for Chinese Christians as Seen Online,” co-authored with Mark McLeister, introduction in *Chinese Law and Government*, 49.3, 2017: 125-134.

- “Ring out the Old, Ring in the New: A History of Minnan Church Bells,” Chinese article in *Research on Gulangyu (Gulangyu Yanjiu)*, Spring 2017.
- Review of *House Church Christianity in China: From Rural Preachers to City Pastors* by Jie Kang, Palgrave Macmillan (2016), in *Studies in World Christianity*, 23.2, 2017: 188-189.
- Extended book review (over 3,000 words), “Counting Christians in China: A Critical Reading of *A Star in the East: The Rise of Christianity in China*” by Rodney Stark and Xiuhua Wang (2015), in *Cultural Diversity in China*, 2016: 1-9. Published in English and Chinese.

**Reviewer for:** *Studies in World Christianity* (Edinburgh); *Review of Religion and Chinese Society* (Brill); *Global Networks* (Wiley); University of Notre Dame Press

**Editorial Committee for:** *Tunghai Journal of History*, Tunghai University; *Research on Gulangyu* (Gulangyu Yanjiu)

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## TEACHING/RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Asian Graduate School of Theology, Metro Manila, Philippines** 2016-present  
Adjunct Faculty  
*Chinese Church History*, PhD program

**Biblical Seminary of the Philippines (BSOP), Valenzuela City, Philippines** 2014-present  
Adjunct Faculty  
*South Fujian Church History*, MDiv program, lectures and coursework in Chinese

**Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, DE**  
Research Fellow, Religious Diversity Department 2015-2018  
Research Partner 2018-present

**Xiamen University WISE Xiamen, Fujian, China** 2008-2015  
Instructor, Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics (WISE) and School of Economics

**China Studies Program Xiamen, Fujian, China** 2006-2008  
Program Faculty

**University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA** January 2006-April 2006  
Teaching Assistant and Interpreter  
*Introduction to Chinese Poetry* (graduate level, Teaching Assistant)

- Yantai University** *Yantai, Shandong, China* 2002-2004  
Instructor, Foreign Languages Department
- Linyi Teachers' University** *Linyi, Shandong, China* 1999-2001  
Instructor, Foreign Languages Department (volunteer placed by The Amity Foundation)

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Xiamen University School of Economics** *Fujian, China* 2013-2015  
Director, Center for International Education and Exchanges, School of Economics
- Carnegie Mellon University** *Pittsburgh, PA* Fall 2005  
Translator
- University of Pittsburgh** *Pittsburgh, PA* October 2004-May 2005  
Music and Cultural Rights Conference Assistant
- China Studies Program** *Xiamen, Fujian, China* 2001-2002  
Program Assistant

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“E” denotes presentation in English; “C” in Chinese

- “Remodeling Church, State, and Society: Challenges Surrounded Church Construction in China,” Chinese Religions in the Age of Massive Urbanization, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany, June 6-7, 2018; and Religiosity, Secularity and Plurality in the Global East, East Asian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (EASSSR), July 3-5, 2018. (E)
- “History Lessons: Christian Genealogies and China’s Protestant Past Today,” Christianity in China: The State of the Field and the Next Ten Years, University of Hawai’i, March 10, 2018. (E)
- “The Haicang Voice: Modernity, Cultural Continuity, and the Spirit World in a 1920s Chinese Church,” A Secular Age in South, East, and Southeast Asia, National University of Singapore, March 6-7, 2017. (E)
- “Writing God’s Blessings: Minnan Protestant Family Genealogies,” 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum on Research of Local Historical Documents, Xiamen University, November 25-27, 2016. (C)
- “Appropriating Christian History in Fujian: Red Tourism Meets the Cross” Yale-Edinburgh Conference, Responses to Missions: Appropriations, Revisions, and Rejections, University of Edinburgh, June 23-25, 2016. (E)

- “盛世修史 ‘Writing History in Prosperous Times’: Protestant Genealogies in Minnan,” Comparative Approaches to Inter-Asian Religious and Trade Networks conference, National University of Singapore, March 3-4, 2016. (E)
- “Crossing Tombstones and Sweeping Graves: Chinese Protestant Cemeteries and Grave Rituals in Minnan and the Philippines,” Overseas and Overseas Chinese: Chaoshan and Minnan Religious Faiths roundtable, Huaqiao University, Dec. 12-13, 2015. (C)
- “Two Sides of One Coin: Evaluating the Indigenization of Christianity,” Sinicization of Christianity: History and Culture conference, Shantou University, Nov. 20-21, 2015. (C)
- “Christian History as Cultural Capital: Reframing Contemporary Church-State Relations in China,” IX International Conference on the History of Christianity in Modern China, HKBU, June 13-14, 2015. (E)
- “Protestant Church Construction and Anniversary Celebrations in Southern Fujian,” Religious Networks in Asia workshop, Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany, June 11-12, 2015. (E)
- “In the Footsteps of Others: Protestant Networks in Minnan and Southeast Asia,” Workshop on the Research Project on Chinese Temple Networks in Southeast Asia, Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity at National University of Singapore, Oct. 18-19, 2014. (E)
- “Family Matters: Ancestral Grave Rituals and Protestant Identity in Southeast China,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Asia, National University of Singapore, July 17-19, 2014. This paper was part of the panel “Faith and Lineage: Protestantism as a Family Religion,” which I organized and chaired. (E)
- “O Death, Where is your Sting?: Expressions of Identity in Protestant Death Rituals,” Chinese Geographic Groups and Christianity—Hakka, Chaoshan, Minnan, and Taiwan, HKBU, June 7, 2014. (E)
- “Saving Chinese Slave Girls in Republican China,” invited speech, University of Bristol, May 20, 2014. (E)
- “Ancestors, Faith, and Identity: Remembering Christian Heritage in Contemporary Southern Fujian,” The Glocalisation of Christianity in China, University of Manchester, May 14-16, 2014. (E)
- “Ancestral Last Rites: Protestant Funerary and Grave Rituals in Southern Fujian,” invited speech, University of Edinburgh, May 13, 2014. (E)
- “Activity Space and the Mapping of Minnan Protestantism,” Research on the Contextualization of Christianity in China, held at Wuyishan, November 9-10, 2013. (C)
- “Christian Celebrations and Protestant Identity in Pre-Liberation Minnan,” VIII International Conference on the History of Christianity in Modern China, HKBU, June 14-15, 2013. (E)
- “Christian Funerals and Graves in Southern Fujian,” Research on the Contextualization of Christianity in China, Fujian Normal University, November 3-4, 2012. (C)
- “Displaced Gods and Riceless Christians: The Process of Conversion for Early Minnan Protestants,” VII International Conference on the History of Christianity in Modern China, HKBU, June 10-11, 2011. (E)

- “Waves of Influence Across the South Seas: Mutual Support of Protestants in Minnan and Southeast Asia, 1835-1949,” Spring 2011 LEWI Resident Graduate Scholarship Seminar, HKBU, May 16, 2011. (E)
- “Blending the Sacred and the Secular: Relational Networks and Social Activities of Minnan Christians in the Early 1900s,” Spring History Symposium, Hong Kong University, May 6, 2011. (E)
- “Late Qing Disturbances between Christians and non-Christians in Minnan,” Asian Studies Association of Hong Kong Annual Conference, Chinese University of Hong Kong, May 4-5, 2011. (E)
- “Without Jobs and Without Idols: The Earliest Protestants in Minnan,” invited lecture and discussion, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, January 18, 2011. (E)
- “Rescuing Chinese ‘Slave’ Girls in Republican China,” The 5<sup>th</sup> International Young Scholars’ Symposium on Christianity and Chinese Society and Culture, Chinese University of Hong Kong from December 6-8, 2010. (C)
- “‘Xu Chuncao is Rebellng Again!’: The Creation of the Society for the Relief of Slave Girls,” 15<sup>th</sup> Xiamen University Local Historical Documents Center Salon, November 30, 2010. (C)
- “Casting Out Spirits in a Twentieth Century Church in Southern Fujian,” 12<sup>th</sup> Xiamen University Local Historical Documents Center Salon, July 27, 2010. (C)
- “The Haicang ‘Voice’: Modernity and the Spirit World in a 1920s Church,” Research on Chinese Christianity: Young Scholars’ Summer Forum, Central China Normal University from July 8-11, 2010. (C)
- “The Gospel in Motion: The Life of Zhou Zhide and the Mobility of Chinese Preachers in Minnan,” Research on Chinese Christianity: Young Scholars’ Summer Forum, Central China Normal University from July 19-23, 2009. (C)
- “Reading China’s ‘Other’ in Studying Chinese” University of Pittsburgh’s East Asian Languages and Literature Spring Colloquium Series, April 2006. (E)
- “The Portrayal of Minorities in Chinese as a Second Language Textbooks” University of Toronto’s 6th Annual East Asian Graduate Conference, March 2006. (E)

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

- “Minnan Protestant ‘Tang’ (堂),” invited 3-part lecture given at BSOP, Oct., 2015. (C)
- Four-part lecture series on the history of Christianity in Huian given to all pastors and preachers in the county and members of the Huian Christian Committee, Nov. 2013. (C)
- Lecture on Xu Chuncao as part of Gulangyu Historical Lecture Series, Jan. 2012. (C)
- Numerous lectures on the history of Christianity in Xiamen given at Xiamen Xinjie Protestant Church, as well as bimonthly articles in Chinese on the history of the church published in the church periodical *The Living Tree* (from Jan. 2013 onwards).

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## TRAVEL AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- Kay Family Foundation (KFF) research grant for the project “Faith of Our Fathers: Commemorating Christian Heritage in Southern Fujian.” 2014-2015. \$25,000.
- Travel grant for archival research in the US, given by Xiamen University Library, Fall 2012.
- Small grant for research conducted at the Joint Archives of Holland, given by Gulangyu UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Application Small Group, Summer 2012.
- Small grant for archival research conducted in the UK, given by the Xiamen University Gulangyu Social History Research Project, Spring 2011.
- Albert A. Smith Scholar, grant (stipend and accommodation) for archival research at the Reformed Church Center in New Brunswick, NJ, Winter 2011.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Visiting Scholar, Trinity Theological College, Singapore, March 2017.
- Prominent Teacher Award for the Xiamen University School of Economics and WISE Study Abroad Programs, multiple semesters from 2011-2015. This award, based on student evaluations, is given to one instructor each semester.
- Named the Albert A. Smith Scholar in Church History at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary for the 2010-2011 academic year.
- Scholarship: China Scholarship Council, Distinguished International Student Scholarship, 2008-2011.
- First Prize, “Fujian District,” CCTV Foreign Student Chinese Speaking Competition, 2010. (Selected to attend National Competition, but unable because of scheduling conflicts.)
- Travel Grant: University of Pittsburgh Asian Studies Center Graduate Student Participation Grant, Spring 2006.
- Scholarship: University of Pittsburgh Chinese Studies Tuition Remission, 2004-06.
- Scholarship: University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2005.
- Volunteer translator for Operation Smile doctors, Shandong, China, May 2004.
- Excellence in Teaching Award, Shandong Provincial Education Bureau, 2001.
- Malone College Outstanding Senior in History Award, May 1999.
- Scholarship: J. Walter Malone, 1995-1999.
- Scholarship: Ohio Academic, 1995-1999.
- Scholarship: Malone College Leadership, 1996-1997.

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## ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Extensive experience in archival research, including extended stays at the following archives:

- Joint Archives of Holland, Holland, Michigan



- Reformed Church of America (RCA) official archives, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, Maryland
- Public Records Office (PRO) of the UK (UK National Archives)
- Hong Kong Baptist University Archives of the History of Christianity in China
- Fujian Normal University Sino-Christian Research Center, Fuzhou, Fujian