The Bloody Business of Christian Conversion in China: Materiality and Religious Change

This presentation explores material practices of contemporary Chinese Christians (Catholics and Protestants) involving blood. Ethnographic evidence reveals that the materiality of this object is at the center of attention of Chinese Christians. Elaborating on debates and practices of multiple Chinese Christian traditions, this presentation argues that blood is a key medium in the translation of a Christian cosmology, the questioning of local material ideologies, and the deployment of Christ's presence in China.

Dr. Michel Chambon is a French cultural anthropologist and a Catholic theologian researching contemporary Chinese Christianity. He is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in Anthropology at Hanover College (IN).

Debating Plural Coexistence in a Protestant Region of Indonesia

This presentation examines how schools become arenas for deliberation about religious coexistence in the national framework, examining a private Catholic boarding school in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, as a case study. The school, founded by local Chinese-Indonesian elites, projects a multicultural vision through a Catholic lens, turning religious values into the basis for civic ones. I provide ethnographic evidence about how the school encourages young Indonesians to have an impact on democratic, multi-confessional Indonesia, as well as an account of the multicultural realities of the school that challenge this vision.

Dr. Erica M. Larson completed her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at Boston University in 2019. Her research is at the intersection of religion, politics, and education in Indonesia.