

Kevin Xiyi Yao (姚西伊) , Th.D.

Associate Professor of
World Christianity and Asian Studies
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Contact Information

Mailing Address: 130 Essex Street, Box 212, South Hamilton, MA, 01982, U.S.A.
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Education

Doctor of Theology, School of Theology, Boston University, 2000.

- *Qualifying examination included history of Christian missions, history of Christianity in East Asia, comparative studies of Christianity and Confucianism, dialogue between Christian and non-Christian traditions.
- *Dissertation: “The Fundamentalist Movement among the Protestant Missionaries in China, 1920-1937.”
- *Dissertation Advisors: Dana L. Robert and John H. Berthrong.

Master in Theological Studies, the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, Elkhart, Indiana, U.S.A., 1992.

- *Merit Award, History, Theology and Ethics Department.

Master in Medieval and Reformation Studies, History Department, Nankai University, Tianjin, China, 1987.

- *Thesis: “Martin Luther’s Thoughts and Life after 1520.”

Bachelor in World History, History Department, Nankai University, Tianjin, China, 1984.

- *Thesis: “The British Colonial Policy in Nigeria.”
- *Award of Outstanding Graduate, Nankai University, 1984.
- *Merit Award, History Department, 1981-84

Professional Experience

Associate Professor of World Christianity and Asian Studies (with Continuous Status or Tenure)

Faculty, Joint Ph.D Program with Boston University School of Theology
Mentor, Chinese Tracks of Doctor of Ministry / Mission and Cross-Cultural Studies

Director of Mission Program

Academic Director of Chinese Semlink Program (Online Education)

Co-leader, China initiative

Associate Professor, Department of Theological Studies, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong, August 2007-December 2011.

Assistant Professor, Department of Theological Studies, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong, August 2003- July 2007.

Researcher, Chinese Culture Research Center, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong, August 2003-present.

Acting Director, Chinese Culture Research Center, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong, August 2005-July 2006.

Researcher and Academic Council Member, Chinese Christian Scholars' Association in North America, May 2000-present.

Visiting Fellow, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, August 2001-June 2003.

Regional Coordinator, Chinese Christian Scholars' Association in North America, August 1999- August 2000.

Assistant Editor of *Theology and Faith*, the newsletter of Chinese Christian Scholars' Association in North America, June 1998- August 1999.

Visiting Fellow, Maryknoll School of Theology, Ossining, NY, September 1989-March, 1990.

Editor, *Information on World Religions*, an academic quarterly published by Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, August 1987-September 1989.

Other Academic Roles and Ministry Involvements

Involved in promoting Christian scholarship in mainland China.

Member, Eastern Fellowship of Professors of Mission, American Society of Missiology
2012-present

Member, ChinaSource Content Advisory Group, 2016-present.

Member, The International Missions and Ecumenism Committee of BTI, 2012-present.

Advisor for the China Theology Forum, 2012-present.

Contributing Editor for Several Christian Journals and Press based in Hong Kong, 2012-present.

Member, The Content Team for Northeast Asia Program, The Center for Reconciliation,
Divinity School of Duke University, 2012- 2014.

Associate, Mennonite Mission Network (U.S.A.), 2003-2011.

Kowloon International Baptist Church, Hong Kong, 2006-2011

Hong Kong Agape Mennonite Church, 2003-2006.

Beijing International Christian Fellowship, 2002-2003.

Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston, U.S.A., 1994-2001.

Research Interests

History of Protestant missions and mission theology

The fundamentalist and evangelical movements in China and America

Comparative studies of Christianities in China, Korea and Japan

History of Christian pacifism in China

Chinese traditional religions and culture, and their relation with Christianity

Christian thoughts and social involvement in contemporary China

Current Research Project

History of Christian Pacifism in China

The Hunan Bible Institute (Biola in China, 1916-1949): History and Heritage

Evangelicalism in China

History of the Northern Presbyterian Missions in China

Publications

Book in English

The Fundamentalist Movement among the Protestant Missionaries in China, 1920-1937.
Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2003.

Books in Chinese

Co-Editor, *A Watchman Vigilant in Spirit and Pure in Heart: The Study on the Thought and Ministry of Wang Weifan*, Hong Kong: Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion and Culture, 2015.

“Contending for the Faith”-- *The Fundamentalist Movement among the Protestant Missionaries in China, 1920-37.* Hong Kong: China Alliance Press, 2008.

The Protestant Pacifism in China. Hong Kong: Logos Publishers Ltd., 2008.

Editor, *Searching for a Path---Christian Faith and Contemporary Chinese Society.*
Hong Kong: China Graduate School of Theology, 2007.

Articles and Book Chapters in English

“A Sociological or Theological Reading of Christianity?” (In Chinese)
<https://www.christiantimes.cn/news/29909> August 29, 2019

“A Century Later, Still Dominant: To Explain the Unabated Popularity of the Chinese Union Version of the Bible (CUV) among Chinese Protestants,” *ChinaSource* (Online Journal) September 12, 2018;

“Wang Wei-fan’s Evangelical Theology—Its Significance for the Church in China Today,” in *Yearbook of Chinese Theology 2016*, ed., Paulus Huang, Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2016. pp3-16

“A Sociological or Theological Reading of Christianity? The Case of the Chinese Church,” in *ChinaSource*, May 20, 2016,
<http://www.chinasource.org/resource-library/from-the-west-courtyard/a-sociological-or-theological-reading-of-christianity>

“Preface,” *Back to Jerusalem with All Nations: A Biblical Foundation*, Mingri Jin, Regnum Studies in Mission, 2016.

“Evangelicals in East Asia,” in *Evangelicals Around the World*, eds, Brian C. Stiller and Others, WEA: 2015. pp 326-334

- “The Legacy of Frank Arthur Keller,” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Vol.39, No.1, January 2015. Pp34-38
- “The Chinese Church: The Next ‘Superpower’ in World Mission?” *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, Vol.50, No.3, July 2014. pp296-306
- “Religion and Church in China: Trends and Dynamics,” *Africanus Journal*, Vol.6 No.11 April 2014. pp23-28
- “ ‘Contending for the Faith’: A Study of the Early 20th Century Fundamentalism in China in Comparison with Korea and Japan,” in *Christian Presence and Progress in North-East Asia, Historical and comparative Studies*, eds. Jan A.B.Jongeneel, Scott W. Sunquist and others, New York: Peter Lang, 2011. pp.41-56
- “Dynamics of the Protestant Church in China Today.” *Mission Focus: Annual Review* 17 (2009)
- “At the Turn of Century—A Study of China Centenary Missionary Conference, 1907.” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 32, no.2 (April 2008).
- “The North China Theological Seminary: Evangelical Theological Education in China in the early 1900s.” In *Interpreting Contemporary Christianity: Global Processes and Local Identities* (Series: Studies in the History of Christian Missions), eds. Ogbu U. Kalu and Alaine Low. Grand Rapids, MI: William B.Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008.
- “A Voice in the Wilderness—the Protestant Pacifist Movement in China of the Twentieth Century.” *Mission Focus: Annual Review* 13 (2005).
- “The Changing Face of the Protestant Church in China.” *Mission Focus: Annual Review* 13 (2005).
- “On the Social and Intellectual Context of Contemporary China,” *Mission Focus: Annual Review* 11 (2003).
- “The Missionary Women and Holiness Revivals in China during the 1920s.” In *Gospel Bearers, Gender Barriers: Missionary Women in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Dana L. Robert. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2002.

Articles, Book Chapters and Book Reviews in Chinese

- “The NCTS’ Controversy in North America, 1946-1952, ”in *An Echo from One Century Ago*, Tengzhou, Shandong, China, 2019, pp1-17)
- “Preface,” *History of Christian Mission*, Tk.Chuang, Boston, MA: The True Light

Society, 2016.

- “Hunan Bible Institute—A Model of the Fundamentalist Bible Schools in China,” in *Western Tides Coming Ashore in a Changing World—Christianity and China’s Passage into Modernity*, Eds by Timothy M. Wong and Others (Hong Kong: Alliance Bible Seminary, 2015), pp 449-474.
- “The Legacy of Frank A. Keller: Gospel Messenger in Hunan, China,” in *Blessings*, Vol. 15, No.4, October 2015, pp20-23.
- “Preface,” *Back to Jerusalem with All Nations: A Biblical Foundation*, Ezra Jin, Z.U.M.C Publication, 2015
- “Frank A. Keller and Hunan Houseboat Ministry,” in *The Study of Chinese Church History from Regional Perspective* (Hong Kong: Alliance Bible Seminary, 2013), pp659-674.
- “The Preliminary Reflection on the Relation between Christianity and China’s Modernization,” in *Church and Society in the Context of China’s Modernization*, eds. Li-ling and Zeng Qing-bao, (Shanghai: Remin Press, 2011) pp.42-52.
- “Christianity and Modernization Campaign in China,” *Blessings* Vol 11. No.1 (January 2011) pp. 17-21.
- A Review of *Salt and Light---Lives of Faith that Shaped Modern China* (Chinese Version) , by Carol Lee Hamrin and Stacey Bieler (Beijing: Dangan Press, 2009), in *China Graduate School of Theology (CGST)Journal*, January 2010, N.48, pp.220-222.
- “Introduction,” *Church History by Eusebius* (Chinese Translation) (Beijing: SDX Joint Publishing Company, 2009), pp1-9.
- A Review of Fuk-tsang Ying, *Christianity’s Failure in China? Essays on the History of Chinese Communist Movement and Christianity* (Hong Kong: The Logos and Pneuma Press, 2008). *CGS)Journal* 45 (July 2008).
- A Review of Zhi-jie Kang, *The Coming of the Missionaries---Christianity in Yangtse River Regions* (Wuhan, China: Qiu Shi Press, 2006). *CGST Journal* 44 (January 2008).
- “City versus Countryside: The Geographic Factor in the Protestant Missionary Fundamentalist Movement in China in the Early 20th Century.” In *Studies of Regional History of Christianity in China*, eds. Chen Jian-min and Liu Jia-feng. Chengdu, China: Bashu Press, 2007.
- “Loving your Enemy and Anti-Japanese War—Y.T.Wu’s Searching for a Solution (1931-1937).” In *China’s Indigenization: Essays on the History of Christianity in*

Modern China, eds. Lee Kam-keung, Lancelot S. Tong, Leung Ka-lun. Hong Kong: Alliance Bible Seminary, 2007.

“The Evolution of Western Protestant Missionaries’ Approaches to Chinese Religions.” *CGST Journal* 41 (July 2006).

A Review of Fei-ya Tao, *Jesus’ Family---A Christian Utopia in China (1921-1952)* (Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2004). *CGST Journal* 40 (January 2006).

“Chinese Christians’ Debate on War and Peace after 1931.” In *Separation and Integration: Chinese Christians and the Rise of Indigenous Church*, ed. Liu Jia-feng. Shanghai: People’s Press of Shanghai, 2005.

“Recovering a Lost Vision: the Historical Development of Evangelical Social Concern.” *CGST Journal* 38 (January, 2005).

A Review of Martin Wellings, *Evangelicals Embattled: Responses of Evangelicals in the Church of England to Ritualism, Darwinism and Theological Liberalism, 1890-1930*(Carlisle, UK: 2003). *CGST Journal* 37 (July 2004).

“On the Roles of Christianity in a Pluralistic World.” In *Christianity and Pluralistic China*, ed. Zhongxin Wang. Scarborough, Ontario: CCIC, 2001.

“The Protestant Community’s Response to Social Movements in China since the Early Twentieth Century.” *Regent Chinese Journal* vii, no.3 (1999).

“Missionaries and Chinese Religions.” In *Construction and Deconstruction: Theological Approach to the China’s Cultural Transformation*, ed. Zhongxin Wang. Scarborough, Ontario: CCIC, 1998.

“Social Gospel and the Protestant Mission in China, 1910 –1924.” In *Christianity and China: History, Theology and Dialogue*, ed. Zhongxin Wang. Scarborough, Ontario: CCIC, 1999.

“The Fundamentalist-Liberal Controversy and the Protestant Missions in China of the 1920s and 1930s.” *Logos & Pneuma, Chinese Journal of Theology* 10 (Spring 1999).

“The Contemporary Protestant Denominations.” In *Contemporary Protestantism*, ed. Ke Yu. Beijing: Press of Social Sciences, 1988.

“The British Colonial Policy in Nigeria.” *Journal of Minor Asia and Africa Studies* (April 1986).

Conference Papers and Presentations

In English

“Chinese Church and its American Partners---The Case of the North China Theological Seminary, 1946-1952,” Yale-Edinburgh Group Annual Conference: Diversity and Difference in Custom, Belief, and Practice in the History of Missions and World Christianity, Yale University, New Haven, CT. (I presented the paper on NCTS in English.) June 27-29, 2019.

“Biola in China and Chinese Christians: A Historical Case Study of American Missionaries and Chinese Church,” Evangelical Missiological Society Northeast Regional Conference, New York, April 2, 2016.

“Religion and Church in China: Trends and Dynamics,” Presented to the Board of Trustees and Faculty of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, February of 2014.

“The Chinese Church: The Next ‘Superpower’ in World Mission?” Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, April 2014.

“Religion and Church in China: Trends and Dynamics,” BTI Annual Dinner, October 2013.

“Religions in China: Trends and Dynamics,” World Christianity Forum, Boston University, October 2013.

“Re-thinking the Christian Contributions to China’s Modernization,” The 8th International Conference of North East Asia Council of Studies of History of Christianity: Christianity and Social Change, Keio University, Japan, August 2012.

“The Current State of Chinese Church,” Chinese Worldview Seminars, Beijing, July 2012.

“Contending for the Faith--A Study of Fundamentalism in the Early 20th Century China in Comparison with Korea and Japan.” The 7th International Conference of North East Asia Council of Studies of History of Christianity: The Comparative Study of the Christian Movement in North-East Asia, Wuhan, China, August, 2009.

“The Dynamics of Protestant Church in China Today.” Annual Conference of the Mennonite Council of International Ministry, Chicago, U.S.A., January 2009.

“Chinese Evangelicals and Social Concerns----A Historical and Comparative Review.” Inter-Cultural Theological Conversation jointly organized by Evangel Seminary (Hong Kong) and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (U.S.A.), Hong Kong, May

2008.

“Timothy Richard and China’s Reform.” The Second Sino-American Symposium on the Roles of Religion in Chinese and American Cultures, Philadelphia, U.S.A., July 2006.

“Theological Education in Mainland China.” Consultation on the Anabaptist Leadership Development in East Asia, Macau, March 2006.

Invited to participate in the Asian Consultation for the writing project of *History of World Christian Movement*, Vol.II, by Dale T. Irvin & Scott W. Sunquist, August 2004; but unable to attend due to a family emergency.

“On the Social and Intellectual Context of Contemporary China.” East Asia Theological Consultation, the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, Elkhart, IN, U.S.A., July 2003.

“Cultural Exchange in an Age of Globalization.” International Conference on Education and Cultural Exchange, Nanchong, China, October 2001.

“The North China Theological Seminary: Evangelical Theological Education in China in the early 1900s.” A conference on “Interpreting Contemporary Christianity: Global Processes and Local Identities,” organized by the Currents in World Christianity Project, the University of Pretoria, South Africa, July 2001.

In Chinese

“Fundamentalism and Chinese Church,” Lecture Series at China Evangelical Seminary, April 2020.

Bi-annual International Symposium on the History of Chinese Christianity, The Hong Kong Baptist University. (I presented above-listed paper on NCTS in Chinese, and served as a respondent at a plenary session) June 14-16, 2019

“Mission with Humility,” Plenary Speech at “Mission China 2030” Annual Conference in Ching Mai, Thailand, August 2017.

“Christianity and Nationalism—From Late Qing Dynasty to Early Republic Decades,” Open Lecture at Eastern China Normal University, Shanghai, June 2017.

“Contemporary Trends in Mission Theology,” workshop at Mission China 2030 Jeju Island Summit, September 2016.

“Chinese Christians and the Sino-Japanese War,” presented at symposium on the Sino-Japanese war (1937-1945), Nankai University, Tianjin, China, August 2015.

- “Wang We-fan and his Evangelical Theology,” Symposium on Wang Wei-fan, China Graduate School of Theology, December 2014.
- “An Ecclesiastical Reflection on the Social Witness of the Church in China,” Forum of Chinese Theology Fifth Annual Symposium: Christian Faith and 21st Century China, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, August 2012.
- “The Sino-Western Relationship within the Protestant Church in China of the Early 20th Century---the Case of the Hunan Bible Institute,” Symposium on Christianity and the Relationship between China and Foreign Countries, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, December 2010.
- “A Reflection on the Relationship between Christianity and Modernization in China,” Symposium on Church and Society: The Context of the Modernization of China, The Chung Yuan Christian University, Taiwan, October 2010
- “Wu Yao-tsung’s Early Pacifist Thoughts,” Conference on Wu Yao-tsung(1893-1979) and Chinese Christianity, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, June 2010.
- “The Historical Interactions between Chinese Christians and Nationalism.” Symposium on the Church and Nationalism in Modern China, Hong Kong, China, October 2009.
- “From Christendom to Marginalized Incarnation—Some Thoughts on *The Changing Shape of Church History* by Justo L. Gonzalez.” Symposium on Christianity and Social Transition, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, December 2008.
- “Christianity as a World Religion and its Current Image Problem in China.” Forum on the Christian Roles in Contemporary Chinese Society, Xi-an, China, November 2007.
- “Chinese Evangelicals and the Anti-Japanese War of the 1930s.” Symposium on Cultural Exchange between the East and West, Los Angeles, October 2007.
- “Is Christianity a Western Religion?” Conference on Contemporary Christian-Confucian Dialogue, Hong Kong Baptist University, May 2007.
- “The China Centenary Missionary Conference of 1907.” International Conference to Commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Robert Morrison’s Arrival in China, Chinese University of Hong Kong, April 2007.
- “The Changing Views of Protestant Missionaries toward Chinese Traditional Religions.” Symposium on Christianity and Cross-Cultural Dialogue, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, December 2005.

- “City versus Countryside: The Geographic Factor in the Protestant Missionary Fundamentalist Movement in China in the Early 20th Century.” Conference on Regional History of Christianity in China, Sichuan University, China, October 2005.
- “The Changing Connection between Missionaries and Modernization Movement in China.” Symposium on Globalization and Christianity in China, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, December 2003.
- “A Historical Survey of Pacifism in Protestant Church in China.” Symposium on Christianity and Chinese Society, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, December 2002.
- “The China Inland Mission and the National Christian Council of China.” Symposium on Christian Anthropology, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, October 2001.
- “Evangelicals’ Social and Cultural Theory.” The Sixth Annual Conference of the Chinese Christian Scholars in North America, Chicago, June 2001.
- “North China Theological Seminary and its Influence.” the Fifth Annual Conference of the Chinese Christian Scholars in North America, Boston, June 2000.
- “Two Chinese Christian Approaches to Confucianism.” the Fourteenth Annual Conference on Chinese Culture and Western Thoughts, Regent College, Vancouver, Canada, August 1999.
- “The End of Christendom and the Changing Role of Christian Churches.” The Fourth Annual Conference of the Chinese Christian Scholars in North America, Los Angeles, June 1999.
- “A Critique of the Three Major Christian Approaches to China’s Modernization since the 1920s.” The Third Annual Conference of the Chinese Christian Scholars in North America, San Francisco, June 1998.
- “Social Gospel and the Protestant Mission in China, 1910 –1924.” The Second Annual Conference of the Chinese Christian Scholars in North America, Boston, June 1997.
- “Missionaries and Chinese Religions.” The First Annual Conference of the Chinese Christian Scholars in North America, Boston, June 199

Teaching Interests and Competencies

History of church and mission in China and East Asia
 Chinese history and culture in relation to Christian mission
 General history of mission
 Introduction to missiology
 Contemporary missiology
 Introduction to mission studies
 World religions
 General church history

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor of World Christianity and Asian Studies, Gordon-Conwell
 Theological Seminary, January 2012-present

Courses Taught:

World Mission of Churches
History of Missions
Missions in China
Advance of the Church in the Non-Western World
Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism
Introduction to Confucianism and Daoism
Christian Missions in Northeast Asia: A Comparative Study

D Min Courses (Seminars):

Historical and Biblical Perspectives on Missiology
Contextualization and Translatability of the Gospel
Case-Studies in Cross-Cultural Church Planting
Early Mission Efforts: Nestorians & Jesuits
Mission In China
Mission Strategic Planning

Intensive Courses Taught in China:

General Church History
Chinese Church History
Chinese Church's Social Involvements
The Gospel and Chinese Culture

Assistant and Associate Professor, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong
 August 2003-December 2011

Courses Taught (mainly in Chinese, partly in English):

The Gospel and Chinese Culture
The Church in History (1): Early to Medieval
The Church in History (2): Reformation
The Church in History (3): Modern Age
The Church in History (4): China
The Social Teachings of Chinese Church

Professional Affiliations

Member, Eastern Fellowship of Professors of Mission, American Society of Missiology.

Founding Member, Chinese Christian Scholars' Association in North America.

Member, Society for the Study of History of Christianity in China (Hong Kong).