

NG TENG KUAN

Singapore Management University
College of Integrative Studies
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EDUCATION

- 2022 Ph.D., Georgetown University, Theological & Religious Studies
Dissertation: “Wisdom Cinema: Buddhism and Film in Contemporary China”
- 2013 M.T.S., Harvard Divinity School, East Asian Religions
Distinction: John E. Thayer Scholarship, awarded at Commencement to the
top student in each of Harvard’s graduate and professional schools
- 2010 M.A., Fuller Theological Seminary, Theology
- 2005 A.B., Princeton University, Comparative Literature, East Asian Studies minor
Thesis: “The Allegorical Hermeneutics of *Honglouloumeng*”

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022- Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Course Coordinator for Big
Questions course, College of Integrative Studies, Singapore Management
University
- 2021-22 Lecturer of Humanities (Faculty Development Scheme), School of Social
Sciences & Office of Core Curriculum, Singapore Management University

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2024 “Of Light and Shadows: Buddhism, Cinema, and the Question of Diffused
Religion in Modern China.” *International Journal of Buddhist Thought &
Culture* 34 (1): 55-98.
- 2023 “After Great Pain: The Uses of Religious Folklore in Kenji Mizoguchi’s
Sansho the Bailiff and Kaneto Shindo’s *Onibaba*.” *Journal for Religion, Film
and Media* 9 (2): 15-39.
- 2019 “Of Faith and Faithlessness: Adaptive Fidelity in Shusaku Endo’s and Martin
Scorsese’s *Silence*.” *Literature and Theology* 33 (4): 434-50.
- 2018 “Pedestrian Dharma: Slowness and Seeing in Tsai Ming-liang’s *Walker*.”
Religions 9 (7): 200.
- 2011 “‘Now My Eyes Have Seen You’: A Comparative Study of *Secret Sunshine*
and the Book of Job.” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 23 (2): 166-
81.

Special Issue

- 2024 “Celluloid Jesus: Beyond the Text-Centric Paradigm.” *Religions*.
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/46O2I3DNHA.
 (Co-editor with Chan Sok Park and Robyn Faith Walsh.)

Book Chapters and Encyclopedia Entries

- In progress “Buddhism.” In *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film, 2nd Edition*, edited by John Lyden. New York: Routledge.
- Forthcoming “Spatial Trajectories, Themes, and Topoi in the Study of Religion and Film.” In *Handbook of the Geographies of Religion*, edited by Lily Kong, Orlando Woods, and Justin K. Tse. Dordrecht: Springer.
- 2020 “Sino-Christian Theology.” *Database of Religious History*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia. <https://religiondatabase.org/browse/908>.

Other Publications

- 2019 “Buddhist and Christian Visions of the Environmental Crisis on Film.” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 39 (1): 315-16.
 * First published on the *Berkley Forum*, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, November 18, 2018.
<https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/buddhist-and-christian-dialogue-on-the-environment-through-film>.
- 2007 *Lingolook China: The 75+ Words You Need to Get by in China*. Princeton: Lingolook Publishing.
- 2005 “Cinematic Transcendence in Akira Kurosawa’s *Ran*.” *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore* 5.1.
- 2004 “Three Sonnets on *Lost in Translation*.” *The Nassau Literary Review* Spring 2004: 116-18.
- 2003 “*Guan Ju*, the *Song of Songs*, and the Language of Love.” *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore* 2003 3.1.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

- 2022-24 Start-Up Research Grant (\$3,000), Singapore Management University
- 2021-22 Overseas Postgraduate Scholarship (full tuition and stipend), Singapore Management University
- 2021 Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Religion and Ethics
- 2020 Annual Meeting Travel Grant (US\$500 pre-pandemic), American Academy of Religion
- 2016-21 Merit Scholarship (full tuition and stipend), Georgetown University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- 2016 Regents Fellowship, Rowny Fellowship, and Graduate Center for Literary Research Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara (declined)
- 2013 John E. Thayer Scholarship for Meritorious Students (US\$11,000), Harvard University Committee on General Scholarships
- 2012 First Prize in Japanese Speech Competition, Princeton in Ishikawa
- 2012 Graduate Summer Language Grant (US\$6,000), Harvard University Asia Center
- 2011-13 Merit Scholarship (full tuition and stipend), Harvard Divinity School

2007-10 Lowell Berry & Paul E. Jewett Dean's Scholarship (full tuition), Fuller Theological Seminary

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2024 "Home Is Where One Starts: Nostalgia and Wisdom in Tsai Ming-liang's *Walking on Water*." Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 15.
- 2023 "Commerce of Living: The Dynamics of Sincerity in Feng Xiaogang's *If You Are the One II*." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 18.
- 2020 "The Open Road: Zhang Yang's *Paths of the Soul* and the Contemporary Chinese Quest for Faith." American Academy of Religion Virtual Annual Meeting, December 7.
- 2020 "*Parasite* as Apocalypse." Society of Biblical Literature Virtual Annual Meeting, December 3. (Co-presenter with Chan Sok Park.)
- 2019 "An Asian American Journey of Faith: Historiography, Missiology, and Theology in Lin Yutang's *From Pagan to Christian*." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 26.
- 2019 "What Other Protector Could There Be?": A Theravada Middle Way Approach to the Self in Interpersonal Ethics." Society for Pentecostal Studies Annual Meeting, College Park, MD, February 28.
- 2018 "Buddhist and Christian Visions of the Environmental Crisis on Film." Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto, Canada, November 4.
- 2018 "Cultivating Interfaith Understanding at Georgetown University." Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto, Canada, November 2.
- 2018 "Pedestrian Dharma: Slowness and Seeing in Tsai Ming-liang's *Walker*." D.C. Buddhist Studies Colloquium, Washington, DC, February 10.

TEACHING

Singapore Management University

- 2023/24 Term 2 Big Questions: Happiness & Suffering (1 section)
 2022/23 Term 2 Big Questions: Wealth & Poverty (3 sections)
 2022/23 Term 1 Big Questions: Wealth & Poverty (1 section)

Georgetown University

- 2019 Spring Chinese Religions (TA)
 2018 Fall Introduction to Buddhism (TA)

Fuller Theological Seminary

- 2010 Winter Medieval & Reformation Theology (TA)
 2009 Fall Patristic Theology (TA)

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES (SELECTED)

- 2024 “Wisdom Cinema: Buddhism, Film, and the Art of Living in Contemporary China.” Lion’s Roar series, Singapore Buddhist Federation, Singapore, April 28.
- 2021 “Buddhism, Film, and Modernity in Tsai Ming-liang’s *Walker*.” Buddhist Studies Footnotes series, Department for the Study of Religion and the Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, Zoom talk, August 18. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G6e5CR2ahI>.
- 2018 “Buddhist Hermeneutics.” Introduction to Buddhism course, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, December 10.
- 2018 “The Crucifixion of Jesus.” Problem of God course, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, November 16.
- 2018 “Creation, the Fall, and God's Covenant with Abraham.” Problem of God course, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, October 26.
- 2014 “Chinese Cinema, Fifth Generation Directors, and Zhang Yimou’s *To Live*.” Modern Chinese Literature and Film course, Yale-NUS College, Singapore, September 5.

SERVICE

Manuscript Review

Arts

Christianity & Literature

International Journal of Buddhist Thought & Culture

Journal of Religion & Film

Literature and Theology

Religions

Verge: Studies in Global Asia

Departmental & University Service

2023- Senator, SMU Faculty Senate

2023- Member, CIS Deferred Declaration of Degree (D3) Committee

2023- Member, CIS Social Committee

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013-15 Senior Programme Manager (International Programs), Centre for International & Professional Experience, Yale-NUS College

2005-07 Program Manager, Princeton in Beijing and Chinese Linguistics Project, Princeton University

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native/fluent)

Classical Chinese (proficient reading)

Japanese (intermediate)

Korean (basic)

Biblical Hebrew (basic reading with dictionary)

Koine Greek (basic reading with dictionary)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies
Society of Biblical Literature
Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies

July 2024