

NG TENG KUAN

Singapore Management University
College of Integrative Studies
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Singapore 179873
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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 *Honglougong*”

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

- Forthcoming “A Summoned Life: Vocation in the *Analec*ts.” *Journal of Religious Ethics*.
- Forthcoming “Full Circle: Historiography, Missiology, and Theology in Lin Yutang’s *From Pagan to Christian*.” *The Journal of World Christianity*.
- 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*.
www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/46O2I3DNHA. (Co-editor with Chan Sok Park and Robyn Faith Walsh.)

Book Chapters, Commentaries, and Encyclopedia Entries

- In Progress “Acts 13: Unto the Ends of the Earth.” *Visual Commentary on Scripture*.
 London: King’s College London.
- Forthcoming “Buddhism.” In *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film, 2nd Edition*,
 edited by John Lyden. New York: Routledge.
- 2024 “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.H. Tse, 1233–47. Cham: Springer Nature.
- 2020 “Sino-Christian Theology.” *Database of Religious History*. Vancouver:
 University of British Columbia. 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.
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.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 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, Rowny, and Graduate Center for Literary Research Fellowships,
 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.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 “Authenticating Wisdom: Death, Desire, and the Business of Self-Cultivation in Feng Xiaogang’s *If You Are the One II*.” Literature Program, Yale-NUS College, Singapore, February 19.
- 2024 “Wisdom Cinema: Buddhism, Film, and the Art of Living in Contemporary China.” Lion’s Roar series, Singapore Buddhist Federation, Singapore, April 28.
- 2024 “After the PhD: The Early Years.” Ideas Festival: Insights from the Humanities & Social Sciences, Ministry of Education, Singapore, April 4.
- 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. www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G6e5CR2ahI.
- 2014 “Chinese Cinema, Fifth Generation Directors, and Zhang Yimou’s *To Live*.” Modern Chinese Literature and Film course, Yale-NUS College, Singapore, September 5.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- 2024 “Singapore and Religious Diversity: How Religions Live Together Peacefully.” Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, October 5. www.zdf.de/nachrichten/politik/ausland/singapur-glaube-religionen-frieden-100.html.

- 2024 “Pope Warns of AI Dangers, Urges Fair Wages for Migrants on Singapore Visit.” Al Jazeera English, September 12.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCvvh5MbeoA.

TEACHING

Singapore Management University

- 2024/25 Term 2 Big Questions: Happiness & Suffering
2023/24 Term 2 Big Questions: Happiness & Suffering
2022/23 Term 2 Big Questions: Wealth & Poverty
2022/23 Term 1 Big Questions: Wealth & Poverty

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)

SERVICE

Manuscript Review

Arts
Christianity & Literature
Contemporary Buddhism
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 Program 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 for Buddhist-Christian Studies

January 2025