

CONSULTATION ON ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN THEOLOGY

- Topic: Book Launch: *World Christianity: Perspectives and Insights: Essays in Honor of Peter C. Phan* (Orbis Books, 2016)
- Convener: Jonathan Tan, Case Western Reserve University
- Moderator: Anh Q. Tran, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara Univ.
- Panelists: Joseph Cheah, University of Saint Joseph, Connecticut
Julius Kei-Kato, King's University College at Western University
Christina Astorga, University of Portland
Elaine Padilla, New York Theological Seminary
- Respondent: Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University

If there is anyone who deserves to be honored for advocating and advancing the discipline of World Christianity, it would be Peter Phan. His election in 2001 as the first non-European president of CTSA and the subsequent conferral of the John Courtney Murray Award in 2010 is testimony to his peers' esteem of his theological stature. This year's Asian and Asian American Theology Consultation celebrated Peter's theological accomplishments and contributions to the academy with the official launch of a *festschrift* exploring the various aspects of World Christianity in his honor.

Four panelists, two women and two men, of whom three are Asian Americans of Japanese, Filipino, and Burmese/Chinese descent respectively and a Latina theologian of Puerto Rican descent representing a cross-section of the contributors to this *festschrift* shared their own experiences and perspectives of Peter Phan's accomplishments and the impact of his accomplishments for their own theological scholarship. Joseph Cheah recalled how Peter's insights on Asian Americans and their many contested identity constructions and belongings have influenced his own research on young Catholics and the growing number of the "spiritual but not religious" cohort in the United States. Julius Kei-Kato expressed his gratitude to Peter and explained how Peter's writings in Asian and Asian American Christianity inspired and guided in as he wrestled with his doctoral dissertation and shaped his subsequent theological scholarship on postcolonial and Asian North American theologies. Christina Astorga discussed how she is pushing new frontiers in the theological bioethics using the methodologies and approaches that are inspired by Peter's theological writings. Elaine Padilla, a Puerto Rican Latina theologian shared on her experiences of working *en conjuncto* with Peter Phan on the three-volume project on World Christianity and migration (Palgrave) and proceeded to articulate how her essay on the migrant in this *festschrift* flows from being inspired by Peter's wisdom and insights.

In response, Peter thanked the panelists and expressed his gratitude to the two editors, Jonathan Y. Tan and Anh Q. Tran, S.J., for the *festschrift* in honor and felt that the real honor should go to the contributors to the *festschrift* who have done an excellent job of addressing the range of topics and issues in World Christianity, as well as pushing the boundaries of the discipline to encompass new insights, approaches, and analysis. During the question and answer session, several attendees expressed their own gratitude and appreciation to Peter and interacted with the

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panelists and Peter on various aspects of World Christianity and the implications for constructing contemporary Catholic theology. The session ended with an official presentation of the *festschrift* to Peter by the two editors and an adjournment to a nearby local restaurant for a festive banquet honoring Peter and celebrating the official launch of the *festschrift*.

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