

中華基督教研究中心 (CSCS) 舉辦聖女大德蘭國際學術研討會 2015年12月18至19日

St. Teresa of Avila International Conference Organized by the Centre for Sino-Christian Studies (CSCS) on 18-19 Dec 2015

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聖女大德蘭是中世紀時期的西班牙修女，同時也是加爾默羅會修道傳統的改革家和個人靈修的推行者。適逢聖女大德蘭五百週年誕辰，中華基督教研究中心為慶祝這一盛事，舉辦了大公學術會議，學習和研究聖女大德蘭的生平及事工。與會人員約有五十人，來自五個國家和地區，包括西班牙、意大利、加拿大、美國及香港在內的七名學者擔任講員，深刻剖析講解並回答問題。大會提供西班牙語、廣州話、英語及普通話翻譯服務，給了與會大眾寶貴的機會參與跨文化研究討論聖女大德蘭的主要事跡，並思考聖女大德蘭對於會議主題「與天主合一」和當代基督教之重要，尤其是在香港和中國其他地區。聖女大德蘭專家 Emilio Gonzalez 教授的主要研究在羅馬進行，他表示本場會議是他在 2015 年參加過的最具學術意義及啟發精神的國際學術會議。

學術合作所產生的非比尋常的特色也成為了本次會議的亮點，而群體支持也有助於會議成功舉辦。在開幕儀式上，天主教香港教區正權主教湯漢樞機高度評價香港浸會大學校長錢大康教授及其他與會人員出席。文學院副院長羅秉祥教授、宗教及哲學系主任關啟文教授也對與會人士表示熱烈歡迎。本地加爾默羅會捐贈了美麗的聖女大德蘭雕像用以佈置場地，大學浸信會亦捐贈了大中文聖經；同時，會議現場提供各式各樣有關聖女大德蘭研究的中文書籍以供購買，價格低廉。本次會議有賴於與輔仁大學合作，邀請到來自世界各地的講者，包括多倫多大學的著名中國天主教哲學家沈青松教授、芝加哥大學的著名基督教神秘主義學者 Bernard McGinn 教授。除了三名中華基督教研究中心的職員從哲學、神學和文化方面所作的演講外，來自中國神學研究院的伍潘怡蓉博士也從女權主義神學的當代宗教研究方向，對聖女大德蘭的生平作了重要分析。會議每晚亦設立了靈修及禱告會，第二晚由兩名代表羅馬天主教和新教的女士帶領。中華基督教研究中心將繼續推動浸會大學的全人教育，並成為香港和中國其他地區深化基督教靈修訓練的重要力量。本次會議確實是難忘的經驗。

In order to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of the medieval Spanish nun St. Teresa of Avila, who was a Christian reformer of the Carmelite monastic tradition and promoter of personal spiritual formation, the Centre for Sino-Christian Studies (CSCS) organized an ecumenical-intellectual conference devoted to the study and critical assessment of her life and works. While there were nearly fifty persons involved as participants, there were also seven invited scholars from five cultural venues (Spain, Italy, Canada, USA, and Hong Kong) who offered impressive lectures followed by extensive periods for questions from those participating in the conference. Through translations across linguistic divides involving Spanish, Cantonese, English and Putonghua, the conference provided a rare opportunity to explore the cross-cultural scholarship on Teresa's life and major works, and to consider their significance in relating the main theme "In Union with God" to the contemporary Christian settings found in Hong Kong and elsewhere in China. Prof. Emilio Gonzalez, a specialist in Teresian studies from the major research institute devoted to this research in Rome, claimed it was the most substantial intellectual-spiritual conference he had experienced internationally throughout the whole of the year 2015.



What made the conference quite remarkable included a number of unusual features created by the institutional cooperation and community support making the conference feasible. At the opening ceremony, the current Cardinal and Bishop of Hong Kong, the Rev. John Tong Hon, gave a stirring address in the presence of the President and Vice Chancellor of HKBU, Prof. Roland Chin and all the participants. Informed welcomed addresses were also made by the Associate Dean of Arts, Prof. Lo Ping-cheung, and the Head of the Religion and Philosophy Department, Prof. Kwan Kai-man.

Enlivening the venue were a beautiful statue of St. Teresa of Avila offered by one of the local Carmelite Orders, a large Chinese Bible donated for this purpose by the University Baptist Church, as well as a wide range of books published in Chinese related to Teresian studies that were made available for purchase at greatly discounted prices. Cooperation with Fu Jen University made it possible for HKBU to arrange for the lectures by international guests from the University of Toronto, the noted Chinese Roman Catholic philosopher, Prof. Vincent Shen Qingsong, and the world-renowned scholar of Christian mysticism from the University of Chicago, Prof. Bernard McGinn. In addition to presentations by three members of the CSCS who gave stirring presentations from different philosophical, theological, and cultural perspectives, there was also a notable junior scholar from the China Graduate School of Theology, Dr. Annie Ng Pan Yi Jung, who provided insights of St. Teresa's life from the perspective of contemporary Protestant studies in feminist theology. This cornucopia of intellectual and spiritual offerings culminated each evening in periods of ecumenical meditation and prayer, with the second night being led by two female representatives of Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions. Needless to say, this was an unforgettable experience that CSCS will continue to promote as a dimension of whole person education at HKBU, and as a contribution to the deepening of Christian spiritual formation disciplines within Hong Kong and elsewhere in China.