

**Call for Papers**  
**2020 Rapid Religious Cultural Change Conference**  
**Hong Kong Baptist University**  
**16-18 April 2020**

**CONFERENCE THEME: “Rapid Religious Cultural Change”**

**Executive Summary:** While religious cultural change has been studied, there is a critical need for more research to determine the influences and processes of intentional religious cultural change and innovation. This need can be met through a collaboration among theologians, philosophers, ethicists, anthropologists, sociologists, and religious studies scholars, to name a few. To accomplish this work scholars will gather for a conference at Hong Kong Baptist University with a focus on rapid religious change in East and South Asian forms of religion. The central question is “Why do religious beliefs at times change very quickly and what kinds of societal impacts do these changes have?” This conference will generate new knowledge regarding how religions end, arise, and endure across time and space.

Please use the following prompts to aid the writing of your paper proposal.

**Theologies of Asian Religions**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, theological accounts of social and cultural transformation, themes of interruption, disruption, promise, and hope in modern and postmodern theology, and theological interpretations of secularization.

**Ethics, Religion, and Asian Society**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, religious pluralism/inter-religious dialogue, ethics, and rapid transformation.

**Christianity in the Asian Context**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, 1) Reacting, Refracting: Eschatological, Apocalyptic, or Millennial Christianities in Response to Change; 2) Christianity and Technology, including but not limited to media technology, technology of the self, and technology studies.

**Islam in the Asian Context**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, 1) the intersections between religion and political change, revolution, and turbulence, as one definition of rapid change. How is religion employed, appropriated and re-appropriated to call for political change in the Muslim world and beyond? When does religion become a catalyst which agitates for political change and when does it entrench existing power structures? 2) We also invite submissions that look at Islam and the digital age as another definition of rapid change – rise of Shiism, Salafism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, or rise of Sufi orders both in the global north and south. 3) papers that address questions related to Islam and power, resistance, and dominance as yet another definition of rapid change while maintaining a focus on the theoretical framework of postcolonialism and decoloniality.

**Philosophy of Asian Religions**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, negotiating normative discourse and radical change.

**Religions of Asia**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, how change and adaptation occurs in Asian religious communities, practices, and performances.

**Women, Gender & Religion**

Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, sex, race, and radical change from a variety of approaches and perspectives.

**Please submit all paper proposals to Ms Mary Siu ([cscs@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:cscs@hkbu.edu.hk)), Centre for Sino-Christian Studies. Each scholar is limited to one proposal.** Proposals may focus on any theory, practice, institution, region, text, or any time period. Papers with an interdisciplinary approach are encouraged. Presenters are responsible for copying any handouts. All program participants must pre-register for the meeting.

**Deadline for Submissions: October 1, 2019**

*This conference is being sponsored by the Centre for Sino-Christian Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University and the Center of Theologically Engaged Anthropology at the University of Georgia.*