



Institute for Advanced Study In Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT)

Join us for an online forum for research, reflection, and writing!

Theme: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Meaning in Life July 8-December 16, 2022

Rationale

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an extraordinary situation for our generation. Apart from economic and financial dimensions, the impact of the pandemic is found in the issues of mental health, data and personal privacy, personal freedom, education, human relations, and so on. The pandemic has not only been changing and impacting the ways we live but also initiates us to quest more about what still makes lives meaningful in the ever-changing complexity and inscrutability of the world around us. The Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT) 2022, organized by Divinity School of Chung Chi College and funded by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, will focus on the availability and possibility of Asian cultural, religious, and spiritual resources and modalities. It aims to inspire and enhance our reflection of meaning in life and its relevant practice in the times of pandemic across cultures and the life span.

Theme

The IASACT 2022 recognizes the value of interdisciplinary engagement as a basis for exploring the full range of questions about the meaning in life and the possibility of living a meaningful life. Accordingly, we invite anyone who has a research, professional or practical interest in the topic to contribute to the role of Asian cultures, religions, and spiritualities on critical issues around meaning and life. Research could offer empirical data (interviews, media analysis, contextual analysis) or theoretical analysis. Possible subthemes are as follows:

1. Creating meaning (cultural, philosophical, theological, psychological, etc.)
2. Innovative community and pastoral practices
3. Related sub-themes, such as environment, gender, women, minorities, health policy, etc.

Taking the success of the virtual IASACT 2020 and 2021, IASACT 2022 will be an online forum aiming to support scholars in researching the subject despite the pandemic.



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Program Activities

Selected scholars must be available for all activities in the following Friday afternoons (Hong Kong time GMT+8):

- July 8: Opening & an orientation webinar
- July 15 & 22: Brief Presentations of proposals
- August 26 & September 2: Mid-term progress report
- Mid-September: a webinar led by a senior scholar in the field
- July to October: regular individual meetings with the assigned mentor
- October 21 & 28: Presentation of final deliverables
- December 16: Submission of a final paper



Subsidy & Support

- A modest grant of up to USD1,500 will be available to support research activities during the program period;
- A mentor will be assigned to provide ongoing academic advice for research and publishing throughout the program;
- Additional advice by relevant resource persons may be arranged where available;
- Online access to the University Library System of the Chinese University of Hong Kong will be made available.



Deliverables

- A mid-term presentation on the research progress (framework, methodology, plans, difficulties, and findings or tentative conclusion);
- Written commentaries to at least two other research projects upon their presentation;
- A research paper offering empirical data (interviews, media analysis, contextual analysis) or theoretical analysis.

Eligibility

Priority will be given to young Asian scholars who:

- are working in Asia;
- have professional affiliation to an Asian higher education institution;
- are early to mid-career faculty or researchers;
- have already started their research and are seeking advice and support to develop the research to an advanced stage.



Due to the virtual nature of all activities for IASACT 2022, applicants should have stable access to internet connectivity for participation. For proper communication with the mentor and among the scholars, a good level of English proficiency is required.

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Application Procedures

Applications must be submitted online and should include the following attachments:

- an updated CV (not exceeding two pages);
- a project abstract with objectives and description of no more than 1,500 words, not including footnotes and bibliography;
- a brief outline of the expected output (not exceeding two pages);
- a recommendation letter from an affiliated institution.

Mentorship



JEANE PERACULLO

Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
De La Salle University in
Manila



JOSEPH N. GOH

Senior Lecturer, Gender
Studies and
Graduate Research
Coordinator
Monash University Malaysia



KUNG LAP YAN

IASACT Dean and Associate
Professor
Department of Cultural and
Religious Studies, CUHK

Deadline of application: May 16, 2022



Enquiry



<http://www.theology.cuhk.edu.hk/academics/iasact>



iasact@cuhk.edu.hk



Whatspp / Phone: +852 3943 6706 (Ms Caly Fung)



If you encounter difficulty in accessing the online form, please register by email and send the required documents to iasact@cuhk.edu.hk.