



## Alan Ka Lun Lai

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### EDUCATION

Doctor of Education	Columbia University (Teachers College), New York City, 2004 Program: Religion and Education Conferred jointly with Union Theological Seminary, NY Dissertation: <i>Teaching Asian Seminarians in the Shadow of the Holocaust.</i>
Master of Sacred Theology	Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, 2001 Area: Theology; Religious Pluralism
Master of Divinity	Canadian Theological Seminary, Regina, 1990
Bachelor of Arts	Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec, 1987

### OTHER EDUCATION

1. Continued Education (University of British Columbia). I took credit courses in German, Modern British history and adult education. (1994-1996).
2. Chaplaincy Training: Clinical Pastoral Education - St. Paul's and St. Vincent Hospital, Vancouver, May-August, 1997.

### LANGUAGE EDUCATION

1. Languages that I have studied: Chinese, English, Japanese, German, Classical Greek, New Testament Greek, and modern Hebrew.
2. **Proficiency:** I am highly fluent in English and Chinese (Cantonese); and I am able to have a basic conversation in Mandarin, Japanese, and German. Currently, I am taking more private lessons in Japanese.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Teaching and learning in multicultural and diverse contexts/classrooms
- Educational leadership; Congregational leadership
- Transformational learning and critical pedagogies
- East Asian cultures & colonial critique; Asians in North America
- Anti-Judaism, Jewish-Christian dialogue and Asian Christianity
- Practices of theological education

### CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- **Pastor:** Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, North Vancouver, BC, 2006-Present.
  - I am the solo pastor of an multicultural English-speaking Lutheran Church with

its members having Germanic, Scandinavian, and East Asian background.

- **Pastor:** Grace Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC. 1998 – 2000.
- **Pastor:** Coquitlam Christ Church of China, Coquitlam, BC. 1992 – 1996.
- **Assistant Pastor:** Regina Chinese Alliance Church, Regina. 1990 – 1992.

### ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- Th.M. thesis reader, Vancouver School of Theology, 2008.
- Assistant Professor: religious education, VST, 2004 - 2006.
- Sessional Lecturer: Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, May 12-17, 2008.
- Sessional Lecturer: Vancouver School of Theology, January Intensive, 2007.
- Sessional Lecturer: Vancouver School of Theology, 2002 – 2004; fall term 2006.
- Approved Ph.D. dissertation supervisor for the University of Wales Lampeter (UK) - Vancouver School of Theology doctoral program, 2007-Present.

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCES

- **Coordinator:** M.A. in religious education degree program, VST: 2004 - 2006.
- **Interim Coordinator:** Doctor of Ministry degree program, VST: 2003 – 2004
  1. Oversee the program and progresses of students.
  2. Update project presentation procedure and policies.
  3. Coordinate students' doctoral project presentations.
- **Chair:** Asian Pacific Taskforce, VST
- Member: M.A. in Religion and Peace Committee, VST
- Member: Modula Education Taskforce, VST
- **Mentoring:** Faculty mentor of Doctor of Ministry and Th.M. students' research, 2005-6.

### ECCLESIASTICAL & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- **Assistant Dean:** Greater Vancouver Conference, BC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, 2008-Present.
- **Member: Faith Order and Doctrine Committee.** Appointed by the National Church Council, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (two years term). 2009-present.
- **Western Colloquy Examination Committee Member:** Final Examination of candidates for ordained ministry for the four Canadian western synods: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. 2009-present.
- **Colloquy Examination Committee Member, British Columbia Synod:** Final examination of candidates for ordination, BC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. 2003-2005; 2007-2008.
- **Member-At-Large:** Committee for Theological Education and Leadership, B.C. Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada – overseeing the progresses of seminarians for ordained ministry, 1999-2000.
- **Chair: Bicultural Mission Conference,** British Columbia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, May 1999. A one-day event for the B.C. Synod (mainly southern B.C.) bringing the Chinese speaking Lutherans and the English-speaking Lutherans together for learning.
- **Convener - Professional Association:** Asian and Asian North American Religious Education Taskforce: (APRRE) Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education: 2001-2002.

### GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES THAT I HAVE TAUGHT

#### 1. Doctoral level courses

- Qualitative Research Methodologies

- Facilitating Adult Learning: Theories and Practices

## 2. Graduate level courses

- Educational Ministries I & II
- Introduction to Living Texts and Contexts (Pastoral Theology)
- Congregations as Living Texts (Pastoral Theology)
- Facilitating Adult Learning: Theories and Practices
- Teaching Christianity in the Presence of Empire
- Christian Education after the Holocaust
- Faith Journey as Religious Educator
- Family as Religious Educator
- Educating Asians: Readings in Asian Cultures and Theology
- Wisdom for Cross-Cultural Wholeness

## RESEARCH GRANT & STIPENDED WORKSHOPS

- Summer Fellowship - Wabash Center on Teaching and Learning, 2006.
- Lilly Research Expenses Grant (ATS) 2005-2006. For the project: *Educating Diaspora: Asian North American Practical Theologians in Conversations*. Project Co-Leaders: Dr. Alan Lai and Dr. Su Yon Pak.
- Wabash Center Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty Stipended Workshop on Teaching and Learning 2005-2006. Research Project: *Transformational Learning According to Asian Religious Traditions*.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- American Academy of Religion
- Academy of Religious Leadership

## MONOGRAPH PROJECT

*The Holocaust Lesson: Purging Anti-Judaism from Asian Christianity*. Seeking a publisher - the work is in progress.

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

### 1. Journal & Magazine

"Teaching Against Empire: A Pedagogical Challenge for Theological Educator." Seeking a publisher.

"Betwixt and Between: The Power of Teaching from the Perspective of Immigrants," *Journal of Religious Leadership* 5, no. 2 (2007): 103-114.

"Where are Asian Christians in Jewish-Christian Dialogue?" *Consensus* 32, no. 1 (2007): 79-94.

"Enliven the Spirit of Reformation," *Consensus* 32, no. 1 (2007): 141-144.

"The Politics of Teaching," *Canada Lutheran*, September, 2006.

"Cultural Signs and the Caring for Chinese Patients," *Southern Medical Journal* 99, no. 6, June 2006.

"A Christian Rereading the Bible after the Holocaust: Implications for Understanding Same-Sex Marriages," *The Journal of Religion and Culture* 16 (2004): 79-93.

"Preaching and Teaching After Auschwitz," *Consensus* 29, no. 2 (2004): 149-154.

"Christian Education after Auschwitz," *Canada Lutheran* 19, no. 1 (January/February 2004), 16-17.

"Dragon Talk: Providing Pastoral Care for Chinese Immigrants," *The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* 57 (2003): 45-52.

"Remembering the Tiananmen Square Massacre," *Consensus* 26, no. 2 (2000): 107-110.

"Educating Chinese Seminarians in North America: A Cross Cultural Understanding of Teaching and Learning," *Consensus* 25, no. 1 (1999): 69-88.

"To Live As Minority," *Canada Lutheran* (December 1999).

## **2. Book Reviews**

*Preaching Without Contempt: Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism*, by Marilyn J. Salmon. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. *Consensus* 32:2 (2008): 130-131.

*Teacher Leadership*, edited by Ann Liberman and Lynne Miller. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004. *Teaching Theology & Religion* 11:2 (2008): 111-112.

*Revolution and Pedagogy: Interdisciplinary and Transnational Perspectives on Educational Foundations*, edited by E. Thomas Ewing. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. *Teaching Theology & Religion* 10:1 (2007): 55-56.

*Practical Wisdom: On Theological Teaching and Learning*, edited by Malcolm L. Warford. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 2004. *Teaching Theology & Religion* 9:3 (2006):

## **3. Dictionary Entry**

"Johnson, Susan Christine," in Susan Hill Lindley and Eleanor J. Stebner, eds., *The Westminster Handbook to Women in American Religious History* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 115-116. (Bishop Susan Johnson is the National Bishop of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, 2007-Present).

## **4. Other Writings**

"Redemptive Violence." *Isien Usko* (trans. Faith of Our Fathers), Suomi Conference of Canada and the United States, October 2008. *Isien Usko* is a national Finnish newspaper in Canada and the United States.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS (since 2003)**

"The Importance of the Post-Holocaust Reflections for Asian Churches." Workshop speaker. Holocaust Education Week. Holocaust Centre of Toronto. Toronto, November 5th, 2009.

"Jesus, Empire and the Politics of Teaching." Keynote speaker for an ecumenical retreat for Lutheran pastors, Roman Catholic and Anglican priests. Cache Creek, British Columbia, May 3-5, 2009.

"Empire-Resisting Pedagogies: Practicing Theological Education in the Presence of Empire." A paper for the Theology in the Life of the Lutheran Church: Transformative Perspectives and Practices Today. A Lutheran World Federation event. Augsburg, Germany, March 25-31, 2009

"Re-Imagining Mission: Ways to be Church in Today's World." An educational event for the Greater Vancouver Conference. February 14, 2009. Co-facilitated with Dr. Greg Mohr, Assistant to the Bishop, BC Synod, ELCIC.

Keynote Speaker: Sunday School Teachers Workshop. Vancouver Taiwanese Presbyterian Church. May 31, 2008.

Keynote Speaker: The 28th Annual Christian Service in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, Toronto. Theme presentation: "The Relevance of the Holocaust to Asian Christianity." May 1, 2008. Sponsored by the Jewish-Christian Dialogue of Toronto.

"When Our Worlds Collapse: Learning to be Christian Again After 9/11." A public lecture at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Maple Ridge, BC. January 23, 2008.

"Has God Only One Blessing? Being a Biblical People in the Contemporary World." A Lenten Study on Jewish-Christian relations at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, February 21 to April 18, 2007.

"Practicing Religious Education in Asian North American Perspectives," *Asia Across the Curriculum* event held at Graduate Theological Union, March 18, 2006. A discussion on religious education in Asian North American contexts.

"Burying Anti-Jewish Christian Practices as Peace Building: A Challenge for Asian Churches." A paper-presentation for the Annual Conference of Religious Education Association: An Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers, in Toronto, November 4-6, 2005.

"What is Antisemitism?" A dialogue with Rabbi Barry Leff. Our Saviour Lutheran Church, British Columbia, June 2, 2004.

"Doing Theological Education in the Shadow of the Holocaust: Reshaping the Future of Asian Theology." Theological Forum: Vancouver School of Theology: December 5, 2003.

"The Practice of Teaching Children: Lessons from Jewish-Christian Dialogue," *Practicing Our Faith: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children and the Church Series*, Chalmers Institute at the Vancouver School of Theology: February 22, 2003.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS:**

- Highly skilled amateur classical pianist
- Amateur photographer
- Learning Japanese