







Peter C. Phan

Is Christianity a Western Religion? A View from Asian Catholicism

Wednesday, February 28 / 7:30 P.M.
6020 Humanities and Social Sciences Building, UCSB
Free and Followed by Reception

How did Christianity come to be popularly viewed as a "Western religion" as opposed to "Asian religions" such as Hinduism and Buddhism? Can it be said that a "critically purified Greek heritage forms an integral part of the Christian faith" and that "Christianity ... finally took on its historically decisive character in Europe"? The lecture presents an alternative vision of Christianity as a global—"catholic"—religion and examines several historical movements in support of "World Christianity."

Peter C. Phan holds the Ignacio Ellacuría Chair of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University. His publications range far and wide in theology. They deal with the theology of icon in Orthodox theology (Culture and Eschatology: The Iconographical Vision of Paul Evdokimov); patristic theology (Social Thought; Grace and the Human Condition); eschatology (Eternity in Time: A Study of Rahner's Eschatology; Death and Eternal Life); the history of mission in Asia (Mission and Catechesis: Alexandre de Rhodes and Inculturation in Seventeenth-Century Vietnam) and liberation, inculturation, and interreligious dialogue (Christianity with an Asian Face; In Our Own Tongues; Being Religious Interreligiously).

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