



Council for Research in Values and Philosophy

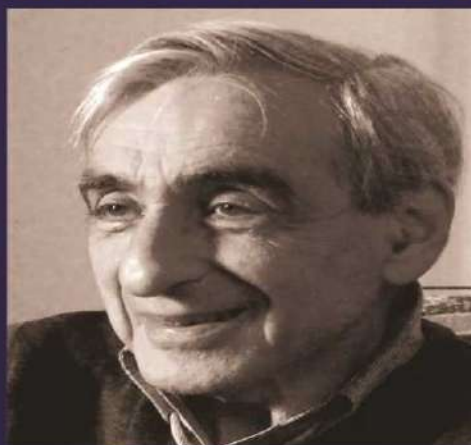
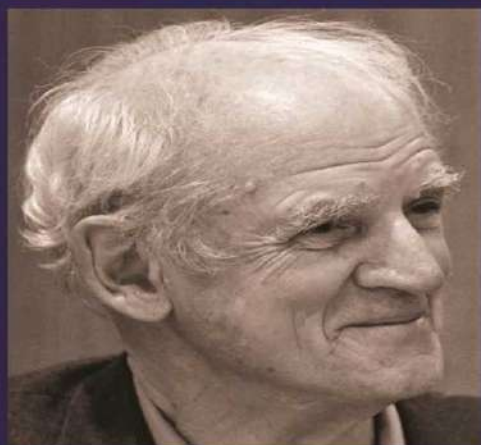
RVP Newsletter — 2020

The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy
The McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values

ON THE MEANINGFULNESS OF DEMOCRACY

A Discussion with

CHARLES TAYLOR & MICHAEL WALZER



Two of our most eminent public intellectuals reflect on the philosophical and religious foundations of democratic politics and culture.

**November 15, 2019
9.30AM-12.30PM**

**Caldwell Hall Auditorium
The Catholic University of America**

620 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington DC 20064
Questions/RSVP: cua-rvp@cua.edu, 202/319-6089

RVP NOVEMBER EVENT AND CONSULTATION

Washington, DC

November 15 (morning), 2019 (The CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values [MCSCV]): "On the Meaningfulness of Democracy." This event was a dialogue between **Charles Taylor** and **Michael Walzer**, two of the most eminent public intellectuals in North America and the world, to discuss and reflect on the philosophical and religious foundations of democratic politics and culture in our times. The event was initiated and coordinated and moderated by **William A. Barbieri**,



Charles Taylor & Michael Walzer

Professor of Ethics at the CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies, Chair of RVP Executive Committees and MCSCV Board Member.

We are living in difficult days for democracy. Democratic institutions find themselves threatened, on the one hand, by nationalist movements and leaders with authoritarian tendencies, and on the other by waning civic engagement and the power of economic interests. At such a time we are well-advised to reflect on some fundamental questions concerning what makes democracy meaningful and worthwhile. During their conversation **Charles Taylor** and **Michael Walzer** focused on the following questions: How do democratic practices contribute to efforts to lead a meaningful life? How can traditional communal systems of meaning, be they religious or philosophical, contribute to—or harm—a vibrant democratic culture? How do the politics of meaning and interpretation



Charles Taylor, William A. Barbieri, Michael Walzer

shape democratic life? What intellectual resources for meaning-making might help revive the ethos of democracy today? They provided a deep and wide-ranging exploration of the relations between democracy and meaning and pointed out some suggestions and possibilities based on their rich experience and wisdom.

David Walsh, Dean of the CUA School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Politics, gave welcome remarks. Nearly 300 people attended the event and asked questions on issues related to democracy and political situations. A report on the event by **Greg Varner**, Associate Editor of *CatholicU Magazine*, can be found at [https://com](https://communications.catholic.edu/news/2019/11/meaning-of-democracy.html)

munications.catholic.edu/news/2019/11/meaning-of-democracy.html. **Vinnie Rotondaro**, Journalist and McLean Fellow, also wrote a report on the event.



At the Event



At the Event

This event marked the 10 years anniversary of the project “Faith in a Secular Age” which was inaugurated on November 9, 2009 by **George F. McLean** (1929-2016), the late RVP President. It was a dialogue between **Charles Taylor** and **Francis George** (1937-2015), the late Cardinal of Chicago. The project has produced more than 20 volumes published by the RVP under its publication series: Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change.



At the Event

Washington, DC

November 15-16, 2019 (The CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values [MCSCV]): "Wellbeing, Artificial Intelligence and the Ethical Challenges." The one day and half gathering was a follow-up on the November 15 (morning) conversation between **Charles Taylor** and **Michael Walzer**.



A Group Photo on November 15

On November 16 the discussion focused on both papers by **Charles Taylor** "Degeneration of Democracy" (this is part of a book which will be published with another author), **José Casanova**, Professor of Sociology from the Georgetown University, "The Holy/Unholy Alliance of the Moscow Patriarchate, American Evangelicals, and the Catholic Right towards the Mobilization of anti-EU Populist Movements in Secular Post-Christian Western Europe" (this paper was presented at the IRCPL Conference on "Populist Power, Faith and Precarity in Europe" in Columbia Global Center, Paris in November 2019). In the morning of November 17 the focus was on the paper by **Terry Pinkard**, Professor of Philosophy from the Georgetown University, "Hegel's Chinese Curse of Living in Interesting Times" (this paper was written for 'Ideengeschichte' to be published in German). Besides the three speakers, participants included **William A. Barbieri** (moderator), **Dan Chitoiu** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania), **Peter Jonkers** (Tilburg University, Netherlands), **John A. Krom-**



A Group Photo on November 16

kowski (MCSCV), **Bradley Lewis** (CUA School of Philosophy), **Maryann Cusimano Love** (CUA Department of Politics), **Michael Suh Niba** (Catholic University of Cameroon, Cameroon), **Philip Rossi** (Marquette University, Milwaukee), **Yves Solis** (University Iberoamericana Prepa Ibero, Mexico), **William Sweet** (St Francis Xavier University, Canada), **João J. Vila-Chã** (Gregorian University, Italy), **Andrew Yeo** (CUA Department of Politics) as well as Chinese visiting scholars at MCSCV **Li Linan** (Xiamen Institute of Technology), **Xu Jianfei** (Yangzhou University) and **Tan Yali** (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, **Charles Kitima** (St. August University, Tanza-



A Session on November 15

nia), **Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar** (CUA Metropolitan College), **David Schafer** (Fordham University, New York), **David Cloutier** and **David Elliot** (CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies).

In the afternoon of November 17 some RVP members, **William Barbieri**, **Dan Chitoiu**, **Peter Jonkers**, **Michael Suh Niba**, **Philip Rossi**, **William Sweet**, **João J. Vila-Chã** and **Hu Yeping**, gathered together to discuss in-length issues related to RVP research theme which will correspond to the World Congress of Philosophy to be held in Sidney, Australia, in 2023 on the theme "Philosophy across Boundaries." The RVP theme was preliminarily decided around philosophy acrossing boundaries in new times which will focus on four aspects: cultural dimensions (political, social, religious), the impact of technologies, ecological challenges and peace building.



A Session on November 15



A Session on November 16

Regarding the theme of the 2020 RVP annual seminar the discussion was centered around the rethinking and reconstruction of nation-state, socio-political and cultural boundaries and the impact of technology in our contemporary world. The annual seminar will be held August 17-September 18, 2020 at the McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values in Washington DC. The theme is "Nations, States and the Transformation of Boundaries." It will focus on the nature and development of nation-state, issues related to nationalism, laws and justice, cultures and ethnicities, conflicts and peace, solidarity and peaceful cooperation.

There will be also an-one week seminar to be held in India on happiness and good life in January 2020 and in Poland on the meaning of solidarity today. A set of regional conferences to be held has been also well-planned in Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Indonesia, China, etc. The focuses will be various due to the different interests of each country and people. For more information visit the RVP website www.crvp.org.



A Session on November 16

RVP ANNUAL SEMINAR (2019)

Washington, DC

August 20-September 20, 2019 (McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values): "The Meaning of Democracy: Foundations and Contemporary Challenges." The 2019 annual seminar looked at the following questions related to democracy: Why are democratic values still important and relevant



A Group Photo with CUA Provost



João J. Vila-Chã

today? How to identify an authentic democratic culture? What kind of role shall human values play in the construction of a democratic culture? What does it take to secure a democratic form of government? What are the epistemic presuppositions of a democratic form of governance? What kind of transformation does democracy require in terms of human self-understanding? and so on. In order to deepen these and/or other related questions, the 2019 seminar sessions focused on some classical texts: **Francis Fukuyama**, *The End of History and the Last Man* (presented by Prosper Maguchu); **Daron**



John A. Kromkowski

Acemoglu and **James A. Robinson**, *Why Nations Fail* (presented by Li Yong and Vũ Thị Thu Hằng); **Eric Voegelin**, *Published Essays 1953-1965* (presented by Wang En and Guiraldo C. Fernandez, Jr.); **Han-**



Final Gathering

nah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (presented by MichaelDua & Sudhir Kumar Singh); **Ralf Dahrendorf**, *Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society* (presented by Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar and Yves Bernardo Roger Solís Nicot); **Alexis de Tocqueville**, *Democracy in America* (presented by Vũ Thị Thu Hằng); **Gordon S. Wood**, *The Creation of the American Republic 1776-1787* (presented by Vinnie Ro-



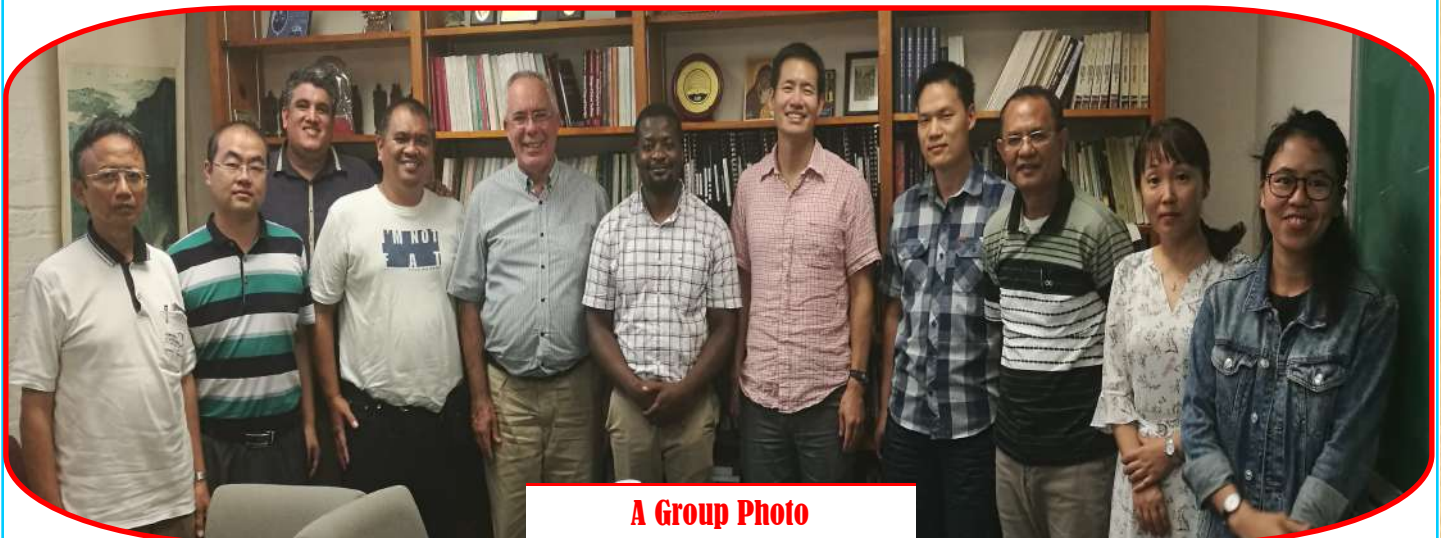
tondaro and Xu Jianfei); **Havey C. Mansfield, Jr** *America's Constitutional Soul* (presented by John Farina); **Jürgen Habermas**, *Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy* (presented by Prosper Magachu and Michael Dua); **F.A. Hayek**, *The Constitution of Liberty* (presented by Guiraldo C. Fernandez, Jr. & Wang En); **Karl Popper** *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (presented by Li Linan and



Invited Speakers (Left to Right): John K. White, Matthew Green, Andrew Yeo, Ouyang Kang, William A. Barbieri, Seamus Finn

Rurrohman Syarif); **Pierre Rosanvallon** *Democracy Past and Future* (presented by Yves Solís).

The focus of the seminar was to understand the socio-ontological interaction of person and society, personality and institutionalization, citizen and state so as to derive both theoretical and pragmatic considerations about socio-political configurations which are capable of granting consistency





democratic forms of government. The center of this exploration was the anthropological conditions of possibility for a sustainable democratic order. Understandings of human-social realities include projections of trajectories toward or away from the development of democratic cultures and human

values. The 2019 seminar systematically revisited the assumptions that drive expectations of modernity as well as its various critiques. It also studied some persistent discussions of socio-political realities not only as measurable phenomena but also as the complex relationships between persons and institutions. These qualitative dimensions can be accessed



through interrogation and investigation found in texts of deep and complex philosophical relevance. Social phenomenology focuses on patterns of personal behaviors in different socio-economic and political contexts while traditional beliefs carry forms of understanding about self and family,





A Seminar Session

community and society, nature and the divine; all illuminate our being-in-the-world and the radical sociality of the human condition.

The seminar was directed by **João J. Vila-Chã**, Professor of the Gregorian University, Rome and Vice President of the RVP, and **John A. Kromkowski**, Director of the CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values (MCSCV) and Professor of the CUA Department of Politics. Seminar participants came from such countries as Chad, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. **Aaron Dominguez**, CUA Provost, greeted the participants and gave a brief remark on the importance of the intercultural dialogue and the significance of the seminar thematic on democracy. Some scholars from the CUA Department of Politics spoke in different seminar sessions on various issues related to democracy: **Andrew Yeo** presented a paper entitled “Has South Korean Democracy Hit a Glass Ceiling? Cultural-Institutional Factors and Limits to Democratic Progress”; **Matthew Green** and **John K. White** shared their insights on American experience of democracy and current political situation in the country. **William A. Barbieri**, Professor of CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies, spoke on “The Mobilization of Dignity: Mi-



A Visit to Philadelphia

gration and Moral Ecology.” **Seamus Finn**, Chair of Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility shared his experience on the corporate responsibility in the United States and around the world.

The seminar participants also presented their own research findings and received mutual cri-



A Seminar Session

tique through in-depth discussions on their papers: **Sudhir Kumar Singh** (Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, India) “Revisiting the Democratic Process of India”; **Michael Dua** (Atma Jaya Catholics University, Indonesia) “Hannah Arendt and the Problem of Totalitarianism, The Political Assessment under Democratic Constitutionalism”; **Nurrohman Syarif** (State Islamic University UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, Indonesia) “Muslim’s Perspective on Democracy: The Meaning, Foundation and Challenge Faced by Indonesia”; **Guiraldo C. Fernandez, Jr.** (Visayas State University, Philippines) “The Role of Democratic Governance in the Philippines Today: An Island Municipality’s Terrestrial Ecosystem Conservation Initiative through Rainforestation”; **Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar** (CUA Metropolitan School of Professional Studies) “The Impact of Physical and Mental Discrimination in the Modern Society”; **Prosper Maguchu** (Centre for the Politics of Transnational Law, Vrije Universiteit, the Netherlands/Zimbabwe) “‘Seek ye first democracy’ Rethinking the Fight against Corruption in Africa”; **Michael Niba** (Catholic University of Bamenda, Cameroon) “Ethnic Identity and in Africa: Competition or Complementarity?”; **Wang En** (Xi’an Jiaotong University, China) “The Foundations and Crisis of Western Democracy: The Decline and Crisis of the Self-healing Ability of Western Democracy”; **Xu Jianfei** (Yang-



A Special Session on Economic Culture and Values

zhou University, China) “China's Democratic Political Model Declares the Bankruptcy of *the End of History*”; **Li Linan** (Xiamen Institute of Technology, China) “Analysis on *the End of History* Based on Perspective and Mothedology”; **Vũ Thị Thu Hằng** (Institute of Philosophy, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam) “The Expression of Democracy in the Vietnamese Cultural Con-



A Photo at the Oblates Community

text”; **Yves Bernardo Roger Solís Nicot** (University Iberoamericana, Mexico) “Between Civitas and Polis: Carlos Alberro Siri Netomist Approach to Democracy in Latin America.”

On September 16 there was a special session on “Contemporary American Economic Culture and Its Values” with four scholars and practitioners who explicated the culture and values embedded in contemporary economic realities. Their unique experiences weaved economics, moral philosophy and faith into matrix of democratic traditions and current challenges. The four speakers were **John McNerney**, the former Head Chaplain of University College Dublin, currently Research Fellow of the CUA Institute for Human Ecology and Visiting Professor at the CUA Busch School of Business, author of *The Wealth of Persons Economy with a Human Face*; **Andrew M. Yuengert**, formerly Research Economist at the Federal Reserve in New York, President of the Association of Christian Economists, editor of the journal *Faith and Economics*, Professor at CUA Busch School of Business, author of *Approximating Prudence: Aristotelian Practical Wisdom* and *Economic Theories of Choice, Inhabiting the Land: The Case for the Right to Migrate*; **Seamus Finn**, Director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Ministry of The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and The Oblate International Pastoral Investment Trust; **James T. Ryan**, Man-



A Photo at the Oblates Community



An Outing at the Grahams

aging Director and Senior Portfolio Manager of the Ryan Group, Global Institutional Consulting, The Merrill Lynch Value Investing Project, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., Initiator of Faith Consistent Investing Forum, a participant in the Vatican Conference, *Investing for the Poor: The Common Good in light of Evangelii Gaudium*.

On September 6 the participants celebrated a special mass at the Oblates chapel to commemorate **George F. McLean** (1929-2016) and **John P. Hogan** (1938-2019). Participants used their own native languages to express their feelings and admirations for the two founding figures of the RVP. The Oblates community generously hosted a luncheon for the participants. Afterward **Seamus Finn** talked about the responsibility of business communities both domestic and international.

As usual the participants were invited by the Graham Family for an outing at the Chesapeake Bay on August 24. It was a tradition begun by **Richard and Nancy Graham** and now is carried forward by their daughter **Busy Graham**, the founder and Executive Director of Carpe Diem Arts in Silver Spring, Maryland. **Busy Graham** and her colleague **Ingrid Gorman** greeted the participants. All enjoyed not only the beautiful nature but more so the hospitality and friendship of American people. On the Labor Day **Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar** invited all the participants to her residence to celebrate American Labor Day (September 2) and to meet her friends from Chad.

John Farina, Professor of Religion at the George Mason University and a close associate of the RVP, took the participants to the Capital Hill to show them the American Congress Hall. He also invited the participants to his residence at Watergate, the Kennedy Center nearby, and then George-



Labor Day Celebration

town Waterfront for a Thai Dinner. John also took the participants to a stadium to watch a baseball game so that the participants could experience another kind of American life and spirit. Indeed, over many years, **John Farina** has made generous contributions to the RVP effort in many ways, but especially greeting seminars participants who are from all parts of the world. His generosity and kindness and consistent support are deeply appreciated by all.

During the seminar some participants visited Philadelphia, the birth place of the United States, to learn the American democracy. The 2019 seminar successfully ended with amiable and cheerful atmosphere full of stories and laughers.



Final Gathering

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC VISITS

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., April 13, 2019: Yevhen Laniuk, Professor of Department of Philosophy, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine and Fulbright Scholar at Washington University, paid a short visit at the RVP office in Washington, D.C. Laniuk took part in the RVP annual seminar "Power, Truth, and Trust: In Search of More Human Governance," August 20-September 21, 2018. He expressed the interest to establish a close link in Ukraine in order to continue the RVP effort in the region. Currently, Laniuk is working on a book on the theme of post-truth and consequences of technological progress.



Yevhen Laniuk

Washington, D.C., May 28-June 7, 2019: Edward J. Alam, Chairholder of Notre Dame University-Louaize in Lebanon, spent sometime at the RVP office to explore various possibilities of continuation of the effort. He met peoples at the McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values, Catholic University of America: William A. Barbieri, John P. Hogan, John A. Kromkowski and Hu Yeping. Alam has been working closely with the RVP first as General Secretary and Director for its Middle East Center in Lebanon. He directed a couple of annual seminars and represented the RVP in different regional conferences. Alam's visit opened more possibilities on various research projects and proposals for future cooperation.



Edward J. Alam

For information on the work, research projects, regional conferences and publications of The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP), visit its website: www.crvp.org

WEDNESDAY COLLOQUIES AT THE MCLEAN CENTER

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., January-April, 2019: The McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values at the Catholic University of America hosted a series of colloquies on Wednesdays in the Spring semester of 2019. The original research conversations held in the 1980s were chaired by George F.



At Barbieri's Presentation

McLean and John A. Kromkowski. They engaged scores of faculty members and representatives of each of the Schools that constitute CUA. The original colloquies were synopsized and later became Volume One in the RVP Publication Series "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change." The

publication of this summation was entitled *Research on Culture and Values: Intersections of Universities, Churches and Nations*. This modest beginning blossomed under the direction of McLean who catalyzed other conversations throughout the world in universities, research insti-



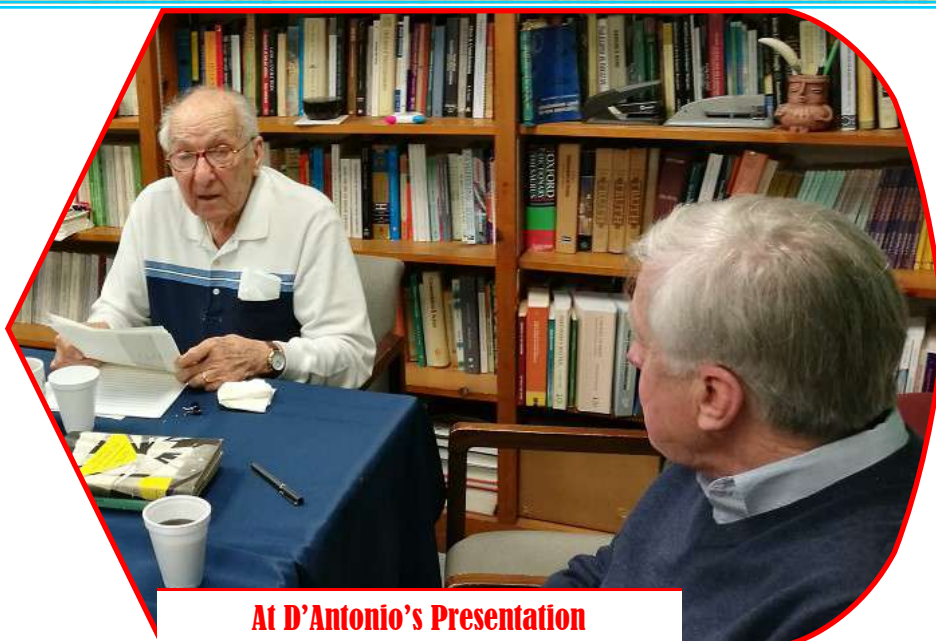
At Barbieri's Presentation

tutes and academies of sciences. McLean deepened such conversations through the sponsorship of the annual seminars held at CUA each year for visiting scholars and frequently included CUA faculty and the Washington-based research communities.

Moreover, international participants in these scholarly events constituted a network that replicated the CUA colloquies and broadened them to become conferences, meetings and panels in their own regions and at The

World Congresses of Philosophy held every five years, as well as in smaller-scale study groups at the academic institutes. These provided opportunities to rediscover how to understand cultural traditions and values, and the dynamics which produced transformational currents and events of our times; to search for new ways of expression of the human and divine mystery of existence; and to undertake the academic responsibility to drive the search for wisdom and understanding. Among the products of such initiatives see the more than three hundred philosophical studies in the RVP publication series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change” (www.crvp.org).

The Wednesday colloquies began with William A. Barbieri, Professor of CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies. He introduced the general thematic “The Meaningfulness of Life” for the RVP research project in the next few years. As the general theme the meaningfulness of life contains five subthemes: (1) for the person, the moral life and self-cultivation; (2) in relation to social existence,



At D'Antonio's Presentation



At D'Antonio's Presentation

ence, communicative action, and the common good; (3) with respect to human relations with nature; (4) as founded in the human relation to Ultimate Reality; and (5) in cross-cultural and interreligious perspective.



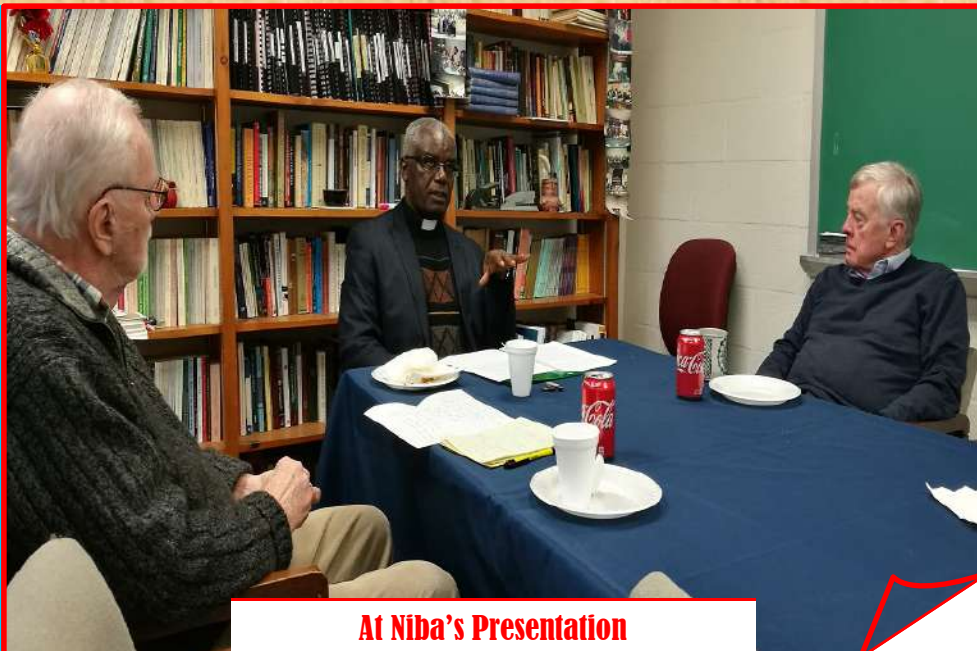
At Nolan's Presentation

On February, 13 William V. D'Antonio, Professor of Sociology and Research Fellow of the McLean Center and the CUA Institute for Research in Public Policy and Catholic Studies, gave a detailed illustration on his academic life "The Academic as Activist." He humorously outlined his rich life experiences that included service in the US Navy, teaching and coaching in high school, his professionalization in sociology and evidence-based advocacy. He has published numerous books on social changes, social policies and religion in society, especially the creation of new journals that are attentive to religious behavior and social phenomena on the maintenance of longitudinal data sets and cross-tabs on Catholics in America and the attendant importance of such evidence for understanding culture and values.

On February 27, James L. Nolan, Professor of Sociology from Williams College and visiting Professor at the CUA Department of Sociology, gave a lecture on "What They Saw in America:



At Nolan's Presentation



At Niba's Presentation

Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, G.K. Chesterton, and Sayyid Qutb." Nolan's talk was based on his book in the same title published by Cambridge University Press in 2016. Nolan's presentation offered a historical review of sociological research and its mode of understanding religion in America. His use of accounts of the American spirit articulated by scholarly visitors at various moments and periods of development provide

a fresh analytics of culture and values.

On March 6, Michael Suh Niba, Professor of Philosophy from the Catholic University of Cameroon in Bamenda, gave a talk on "Evangelization and African Culture." Niba studied philosophy at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome. Niba gave a detailed analysis on the phenomenon of some African Christians who live a double life between their Christian faith and their native practices; how to understand the true meaning of Christianity in different cultural settings. Currently Niba is a Research Fellow at the McLean Center and participating in the Center's seminars as well as completing a research project on the intersection of Christianity, vernacular cultures and secular institutions, philosophy of religion, as well as John Paul II's notion on person.

On March 27, David Sollenberger, Lecturer of CUA Department of Politics, presented a talk on "The Political Philosophy of Walt Whitman." This talk was based on his dissertation. Sollenberger



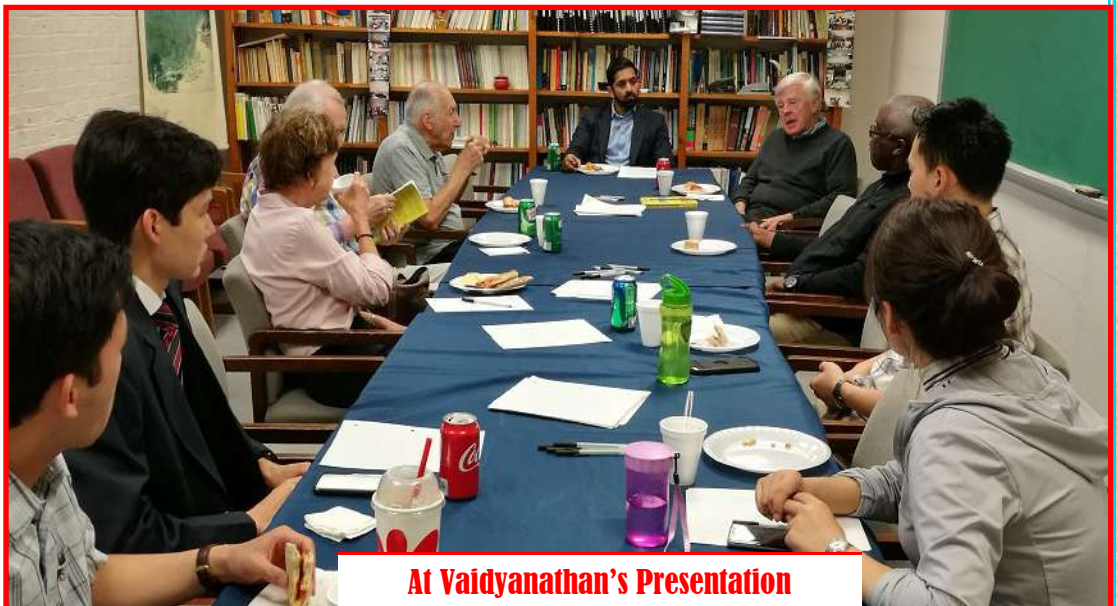
At Sollenberger's Presentation

analyzed Whitman's various poems to show a conflict between the desire to embrace a modern "liberal" form of liberty where Whitman wants to withdraw into private life with friends and lovers as the Civil War becomes inevitable vs a more ancient or "republican" active citizenship that attempts to use love between men as a public and redemptive force to preserve the union and break the power of slave holders.



At Sheahan's Presentation

On April 10, Luke Sheahan, Associate Director and Postdoctoral Research Fellow of Freedom Project at Wellesley College, gave a talk on "Why Associations Matter: The Individual, the State, and Freedom of Association." Sheahan is a graduate from the CUA Department of Politics. His talk was based on his forthcoming book in the same title (which will be published by the University of Kansas Press). Sheahan applied concepts from political sociology to critique the Supreme Court's freedom of association jurisprudence. 16 students attended the lecture and participated in an intensive discussion of Sheahan's presentation. The last lecture in the series was held on April 24. Brandon Vaidyanathan, Professor of Sociology and Chair of CUA Department of Sociology, gave a talk on "Beauty, Awe, and Wonder in Scientific Inquiry." This was based on a research project funded by the Templeton Foundation. It is a collaboration of scholars from four countries: Great Britain, India, Italy and the United States. They provide a set of questions to scientists and ask them to give their understanding on the relationship between beauty and sciences.



At Vaidyanathan's Presentation

RVP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (2019)

Bogota, Colombia

June 18-19, 2019 (Universidad El Bosque): “**Sustainable Development and Health.**” This conference was initiated by **Carlos Eduardo Maldonado Castaneda**, who took part in the RVP annual seminar in September-November, 2006 on the theme of “History and Cultural Identity” along with a group of international scholars from different cultures and countries. He is also coordinating the RVP network in the Latin American region. The conference was sponsored by the Universidad El Bosque and conducted by **Luis Alejandro Gómez Barrera**, Director Health of the University.

As the conference theme described health is a most important issue in our world. It concerns both human beings and ecological nature – rivers, oceans, plants, animals, drinkable water, etc. As it happens, health is closely related to ongoing discussions about development, sustainability, peace and war. From the first report to the Club of Rome until more recent reports, the relationship between health and human development becomes a crucial issue that defies both social sciences and humanities, such as medicine, biology, sociology, philosophy, political science and education.



Carlos Maldonado



Luis Alejandro Gómez

There is an increasing concern about what it means to live-well (*suma qamaña*, and *sumak kawsay*) among Andean peoples and cultures, and know-how-to-live. Our relations with nature, others and especially himself/herself are at stake, not to mention, what we eat and how we eat. Against pessimist views, we find that there are new ways of living-together emerging all around the world in local experiences. Living-well is a deepest philosophical subject, indeed.

The goal of this seminar entails a cross-disciplinary approach, for it is after all about knowing



During the Break

how to live well in a healthy environment both human and natural. Reductionism of any kind fails to cope with sound answers and brand new proposals. The call for a dialogue between cultures and civilizations, local and universal experiences, practices, knowledge, wisdom, as well as sciences and technologies arises unavoidably. The future of human beings and of life on earth is ultimately what



A Group Photo

is at stake. The conference tried to cover the following issues: 1. Health as an issue that pertains to both human beings and nature; 2. Human and social development is about problematizing what it means to live-well; 3. The future of humankind and of life on earth is not only desirable but also possible. Hence the concern about healthy environments; 4. Whilst the focus has been placed, until now mainly on sickness and disease, it is time that we should focus on health, both human and nature; and 5. Personal, social, political, and cultural threads arise necessarily calling thus for cross-disciplinary approaches on the conference theme.

The two-day conference was held at the University with a format of focusing on intensive discussions. Each speaker had 30 minutes for presentation followed with 60 minutes for questions and comments. **James Miller**, Professor of Daoist Studies from Duke Kunshan University, gave the first talk on "China's Green Religion: Daoism and the Quest for a Sustainable Future." **João J. Vila-Chã** spoke on "The City as Modality of Being-in-the-World: Urbanization and the Challenges of Sustainability," and **Hu**

Yeping on "Harmony and Unity of Heaven and the Human: A Confucian Perspective on Sustainable Development and Human Health."

Scholars from the Universidad El Bosque formed an interdisciplinary



A Conference Session



A Conference Session

research group. Some of the members presented their papers: **Carlos Maldonado**, Professor of Philosophy, talked on “What Does It Takes to Care for the Health of the Earth?”; **Santiago Galvis**, Professor of Anthropology, spoke about “Planning and Health: Two Incompatible Concepts: An Open Discussion”; **Luis Alejandro Gómez**, Professor of Political Sciences, presented his paper on “How to profile a relationship between consumption and Health?”; **Catalina Valencia**, Specialist on public health, discussed the theme on “Enablers to Realizing Value-Based Health Care”; **Ana Camila Garcia Lopez**, Sociology Scholar, spoke on “Traditional Knowledge to Modern Science” and **Gabriel Rodríguez**, Professor of Public Health, talked on “Applying the Politics and Implementation of Health in all Colombian Policies.”

The conference was held in an amiable atmosphere. The discussion was intense and covered



During the Break

many related issues. All expressed their interest in continuation of such work. Future plans are well underway. The papers will be published in an joint effort.

Shanghai, P.R. China

July 13-14, 2019 (Fudan University): “Bio-politics and Ethnic Identity.” The conference was conceived and planned by **Zou Shipeng**, Changjiang Professor of School of Philosophy and the Center for Contemporary Marxism in Foreign Countries, Fudan University. **Liang Pingyang** coordinated the conference. **Zou Shipeng** took part in the RVP 2003 annual seminar on “Communication across Cultures: The Hermeneutics of Culture in a Global Age.” He edited three books published by



From Left to right: Zou Shipeng, Wang Xinsheng, João J. Vila-Chã



Liang Pingyang

the RVP: *Rethinking Marx*, *Communication across Cultures: the Hermeneutics of Cultures and Religions in a Global Age*, and *Reflections on Enlightenment from Multiple Perspectives*.”

Fudan University and the RVP have worked together since the early 1990s when **George F. McLean** first visited Shanghai. He met **Liu Fangtong**, **Yu Wujin** and other scholars at Fudan University and began the long-term cooperation by holding conferences, attending RVP annual seminars and publishing research findings. This conference was the continuation of this long-term effort between the two organizations. **Wang Xinsheng**, Vice Dean of the School of Philosophy and **João J. Vila-Chã** (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome), Vice President of the RVP, spoke at the opening to commemorate **Vincent Shen** (1949-2018) who was closely associated with Fudan University and the RVP.

The major themes of the conference focused on 1. Bio-politics, the reconstruction of global modernity and the revival of nation-state, 2. Comparative studies on different cultural traditions and



A Group Photo

their modern transformations of multiple ethnic groups, 3. Ethnic consciousness and national identity in the process of construction of contemporary nation-state, 4. Anti-Semitism as a bio-political event and the construction of contemporary ethnic politics, and 5. Related theoretical resources, research and commentaries on bio-politics.



A Panel Session

The first panel session, "Bio-politics and Modernity," was chaired by **Sun Weiping** (Shanghai University) and **Kunchapudi Srinivas** (Pondicherry University Kalapet Puducherry, India) with the following speakers: **João J. Vila-Chã** "Bio-politics and the Ambiguities of Power," **Wang Tienen** (Shanghai University) "Modernity, Bio-politics and Info-politics," and **Lan Jiang** (Nanjing University, Nanjing) "Production and Government: Biopolitics as Parallax of Political Economy."

The second panel session, "Bio-politics and Human Common Value," was chaired by **Qong Qun** (Renmin University, Beijing) and **Dariusz Dobrzański** (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland). The presenters included **Sun Weiping** "Constructing the 'Community of Human Destiny' on the Basis of 'Human Common Value'," **Astrid Vicas** (Saint Leo University Saint Leo, USA) "Anthropology and Ethnography Meet Foucault: Biopower, Stratification, Exclusion, Power, and Authority," and **Lin Qing** (Fudan University) "Historical Materialism and Bio-Politics."

In the afternoon there were parallel sessions. The first, "Jewish, Liberation Discourse and Nationalism," was chaired by **Zhang Yin** (Fudan University) and **Andrew Tsz Wan Hung** (The Hong



A Panel Session



A Parallel Session

Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong) and presented by the following speakers: **Dariusz Dobrzański** "Discourse of 'Wiadomości literackie' Magazine on the Jewish Question and Anti-Semitism," **Lu Kaihua** (Shanghai East Normal University) "A Political Power without Political Rights: Another Look on Anti-semitism in Marx' on the Jewish Question," and **Zhang Milan** (Fudan University) "A Typological Analysis of Nationalism Studies."

Parallel session number two, "Bio-politics and Ethnic Politics" was chaired by **Lan Jiang** and **Daniel Sin-Pan Ho** (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong) and presented by **Zhang Wu** (Peking University) "The Reflection on the Paradigm of Bio-politics from The Perspective of Ethnic Politics: A Critical Reading on Giorgio Agamben's Theory of Bio-politics," **Geetesh Nirban** (Delhi University, India) "The Yoga Consciousness in *Bhagavadgītā*: Spiritual Ethos as Ethnic Consciousness/Identity of India," and **Yan Jing** (Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences) "The Reflexive Self and the Network self: Comparison with Giddens' and Castells' Identity Theory."

The third session, "The Theoretical Resources of Bio-politics," was chaired by **Yan Jing** and **Abey Koahy** (Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, India). Three speakers were doctorate candidates from Fudan University: **Li Jiahong** "Foucault on Government of Self and Neo-Liberalism,"



A Parallel Session



A Parallel Session

Liang Bingyang "The Dimension of Bio-Politics in Stirner's Individual Anarchism" and **Guan Shantong** "The Inheritance of Hardt and Negri to Marx's Thoughts: From the 'Critique of Political Economy' to the 'Biopolitical Critique'."

The fourth parallel session, "National State and National Identity," was chaired by **Zhang Wu** and **Lu Kaihua**. The following speakers presented their papers: **Kunchapudi Srinivas** "Bio-politics in the Context of Rebuilding a Nation-State," **Andrew Tsz Wan Hung** "Charles Taylor on Nationalism and Ethnic Identity," **Kim Jayson G. Villezca** (University of Santo Tomas, Philippine) "The Bio[linguistic]-politics of De-Filipinizing Filipino Nationalism," and **Olayiwola Victor Ojo** "Political Competition and Ethnic Identity in Africa: Insights From Nigeria and Kenya."

The final sessions were chaired by **João J. Vila-Chã**, **Wang Xinsheng** and **Astrid Vicas**. Speakers included **Gong Qun** "The May 4th New Culture Movement and the Rejuvenation of the Nation-State," **Zou Shipeng** "The Wisdom of Life Politics in Ethnic Practice," **Wang Xinsheng** "The Enlightenment Dimension of the Birth of Islam," **Abey Koshy** "Bodily Origin of Security Mania: Thinking with Deleuze and Guattari," **Daniel Sin-Pan Ho** "Healthy Vs Hostile Social Differentiation: Insights from Social Identity Construction of Paul in First Corinthians," and **ZhangYin** (Fudan University) "The Excessive Power besides Biopower."

Zou Shipeng and **Hu Yeping** spoke at the concluding session and expressed their willingness to continue the long-term cooperation between Fudan University and the RVP. The papers presented during the conference will be published in the RVP publication series.



At the Hotel Lobby

Wuhan, P.R. China

July 16-17, 2019 (Wuhan University): "**Translation and Interpretation of Buddhist and Christian Scriptures: Past and Present.**" This conference was conceived and promoted by **Huang Chao**, Vice Dean of School of Philosophy and **Zhai Zhihong**, Chairperson of the Department of Religion, School of Philosophy, Wuhan University. The conference was part of the continued efforts being undertaken by Wuhan University and RVP. In May 2001 the first such conference "Christianity and the Present Age" was organized by **Duan Dezhi**, then the chairperson of the Department. In subsequent years conference continued its thematic focus on "Transcendence and Immanence in Confucianism, Buddhism and Christianity" (2012), "The Method of



From Left to right: Huang Chao, Ma Tianxiang, Zhai Zhihong



Li Yi

Matteo Ricci and Communication between Western and Chinese Cultures" (2015) and "Hermeneutic Understanding of Translation of Early Buddhist and Christian Scriptures: Theories and Praxis" (2016). In 2010 **Huang Chao** took part in the RVP annual seminar "Human Nature: Stable and/or Changing?" Since then he has been coordinating the RVP effort at the University. Li Yi was very instrumental in the coordination of the conference.

The main purpose of the conference was to study the historical context and the development of translation rules and standards, to look into the origin of classics and to explore theologies of sinicization of Buddhism and Christianity in different eras. As focal points we register the following: (1) The Chinese Translation of Early Buddhist Scriptures, (2) The Chinese Translation of Nestorianism Classic Texts in the Tang Dynasty, (3) Translation and Interpretation of Buddhist and Christian



A Group Photo

Scriptures in such dynasties as Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing, (4) Relations between Translation of Classical Texts and Communication (Dialogue) of Religions, and (5) Sinicization of Religions and Translation of Buddhist and Christian Scriptures.

Zhai Zhihong chaired both the opening and the first sessions. **Huang Chao** and **Hu Yeping** gave opening remarks on behalf of the organizers. The following speakers presented their papers in the first session: **Ma Tianxiang** (Wuhan University) "Issues of Chinese Translation of Early Buddhist

Scriptures: A Comparative Study of Liang Qichao, Tang Yongtong and Ji Xianlin," **João J. Vila-Chã** "Homo Hermeneuticus: Anthropological Implications of Contemporary Hermeneutics," **Emannel A.**



A Conference Session

Slălăgean (University of Bucharest, Romania) "Contemporary Challenges in the Interpretation of Buddhist and Christian Scripture. Hermeneutical Guidelines Proposed by George F. McLean for a Profound Multicultural and Interreligious Dialogue," and **Zhang Zehong** (Sichuan University, Chengdu) "The Thought of 'providing salvation for the masses' in Duren Jing."

The second session chaired by **Ma Tianxiang** included the following speakers: **Lv Jianfu** (Shanxi Normal University, Xian) "Theorization and Sinicization of Early Buddhist Scriptures Translation," **Huang Min** (Southwest University of Politics and Law, Wuhan) "Evolution of Conditioning Cause in Early Chinese Translation of Buddhist Scriptures," **Yao Binbin** (Wuhan University) "A Study of Modern Chinese Buddhist Academy and Japanese Authentication on 'Mahāyāna śraddhotpada śāstra': Take liang qichao, zhang taiyan and ouyang as Perspectives," and **Rekhamoni Devi** (Indian Institute of Technology, India) "Hermeneutical Nature of Buddhism and its Impact on Socio-Cultural Life of Asian People."

A third session of the Conference was chaired by **Sang Jingyu** (Wuhan University) and included **Xu Tao** (Wuhan University) "From 'Buddhist Christianity' to 'Mahayana Theology': A New Trial of Contemporary Dialogue between Buddhism and Christianity," **Hung Tsz Wan Andrew** "Paul Ricoeur's Translation Theory and Chinese Bible Translation," and **Elaine M Robson** (University of Bristol, England) "Deepening the Establishment of Theological Thought in the New Era."



A Conference Session

Lv Jianfu chaired the fourth session with the following speakers: **Zhai Zhihong** "The Demonstration, Criticism and Interpretation of the Rationality of Belief: The Multi-implication Understanding of Hume's and Kant's Religious Philosophy," **Dariusz Dobrzański** "Must Literary Discourse in Confrontation with Another Culture Be Orientalistic?," **Shen Ting** (Wuhan University) "Whose



A Conference Session

Purpose Is 'Purity of Mind'? : A Comparison of the Different Interpretations between the Separatists during Late Ming Dynasty and Modern Intellectualist Scholars."

Zhang Zehong chaired the fifth session with the following presentations: **Sang Jingyu** "A Response to Thomas Wood's Critique of Vijñānavāda," **Cao Yan** (Wuhan University) "The Thought of Noumenon and Function in the Mere Consciousness Theory," **Chen Li** (Wuhan University) "A Comparative Study of Cognitive Paths between 'Identity' and 'Evidence'" and **Geetesh Nirban** "Trust, Faith and Practical Adaptability as Scheme of Hermeneutics in Translation of Religious Texts: A Study from the Indian Perspective (Bhagavadgītā)."

The sixth session was chaired by **Xu Tao** with the following presenters who presented their papers: **Sin Pan Ho** "Meals as Boundary Setting of Insiders: Interpreting Christian Scripture about Meals in the Light of Mediterranean Cultures," **Du Xiaolan** (Shanxi University of Science and Technology, Xian) "Studium Biblicum Version of the Bible and Translating Strategies from the Cross-cultural Perspective," **Fang Yong** (Wuhan University) "The Ethical Principles Behind the Concept of 'Bao'."



At the University Campus



A Conference Session

The seventh session was chaired by **Hung Tsz Wan Andrew** and presented by **Hu Yeping** "Hermeneutic Understanding in Contemporary Times," **Deng Xuelin** (Daoist Association, Wuhan) "Experience in

the Sinicization of Taoism," **Dai Xiaofang** (Wuhan University) "A Study on the Chinese Translation of 'esse' and 'ens' in Aquinas' Works: A Case Study of On the Existence and Essence translated by Professor Duan Dezhi," and **Huang Chao** "On the Relation between the Name and Nature of God: On the Chinese Translation of the Name of God in Christianity."

Huang Chao chaired the concluding session. **João J. Vila-Chã** and **Zhai Zhihong** gave concluding remarks respectively to address the importance of the continued cooperation and effort. Both expressed the willingness to carry on this important dialogic discourse among different religions and civilizations.

After the conference some participants visited Sizhu Temple, the fourth patriarch of Chan Buddhism. It is located at Double Peak Mountain near Huang Mei City, about 200 kilometers from Wuhan city. In



A Visit to the City

2012 **Jinghui Master** (1933-2013) received some of the participants when they visited there. Wuhan city is intersected with Han river and Yangtze River and consists of three towns: Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang. Some participants also took the ferry across the Yangtze river.



A Visit to Sizhu Temple

Wuhan, P.R. China

July 19, 2019 (Huazhong University of Science and Technology): **"Dialogue of Civilizations and Global Governance."** This gathering was initiated and planned by **Ouyang Kang**, Dean of the Institute of State Governance, Huazhong University of Science and Technology. As one of the RVP Council Members **Ouyang kang** has traveled extensively across the world and taken part in various RVP activities. He is especially interested in the effort of dialogue of civilizations and has been continuously working toward this goal. This seminar gathered a group of key scholars from the Institute to present their research findings: **Yu Chongsheng** "Resolving the Clash of Civilizations in the Global Age with 'Civilization with Agreement'," **Dong Hui** "The Ur-



Presentation of a RVP Book



A Conference Session

ban Governance in the Rise of Global City: A Preliminary Philosophical Analysis," **Lei Ruipeng** "Human Genome Editing and Global Governance," and **Ouyang Kang** "Dialogue of Civilizations and Global Good Governance in the New Era of Globalization." Some visiting scholars also presented their ideas: **Dariusz Dobrzański** "Eight Theses on Dialogue and Good Governance," **Geetesh Nirban** "The Concept of Dharma in the Nature of Good Governance in India," **Emanuel Salagean** "Is Metaphysics Helpful in Cultural and Religious Dialogue for a Good Governance?" and **João J. Vila-Chã** "The Urban Revolution and the Challenges of Good Governance."

"文明对话与全球治理" 研讨会 Seminar on Dialogue of Civilizations and Global Governance July 19, 2019. Wuhan, China (中国·武汉)



A Group Photo

Changsha, P.R. China

July 20, 2019 (Hunan Normal University): “**Building an Ethical Culture East and West.**” This meeting was planned by **Xiang Yuqiao**, Vice Dean of the School of Studies of Moral Culture, Hunan Normal University and coordinated by **Yu Lu**, Professor of the School. A group of young scholars and



A Discussion Session

graduate students led by **Xiang Yuqiao** attended the gathering and introduced their research interests in such areas as justice, ethics, aesthetics, Chinese and Western ethic theories, practical ethics,



A Visit at Yuelu Academy

etc. **Chen Wenxue** (Nankai University, Tianjing), **Ding Guangli** (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan), **Dariusz Dobrzański**, **Geetesh Nirban** and **João J. Vila-Chã** participated in the conversation. After the discussion, **Xiang Yuqiao** showed the visiting scholars the achievements of the School over the years. The visiting scholars also visited Yuelu Academy, one of the four oldest academies in China as well as other historical sites near Changsha.



At the University Center



A Group Photo

Ha Long City, Vietnam

July 25-26, 2019 (Vietnam Academic of Social Sciences): “**Social Solidarity and Social Development**.” This conference was planned by **Pham Van Duc**, Vice-President of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and President of Graduate Academy of Social Sciences (GASS). He is also a CD member of FISP, now in his third term. **Pham Van Duc** took part in the RVP annual seminar on “Globalization and Identity” in 2002. He published his research study on *Practical Issues and Social Philosophy in Vietnam Today* (2018) and co-edited another book *Rethinking the Role of Philosophy in Global Age* (2009). The cooperation between VASS and the RVP began in the early 1990s after the academic visit of **George F. McLean**, **Vincent Shen** and **Tran Van Doan**. Since then the two institutions have initiated a series of conferences, publications, seminar participations, etc. Up to now, about 10 VASS members have taken part in the RVP annual seminars. This conference was the natural continuation of such a long-term efforts.



Pham Van Duc

In Vietnam, social solidarity is the main driving force for national development in the context of globalization and international integration, for it has created joint aspirations and forces of different social strata and communities in Vietnamese society. In the multi-cultural and multi-religious situation, social solidarity has become the source of strength of many peoples and the decisive factor of guaranteeing the sustainable achievement of the Vietnamese social construction and safeguarding the homeland of the Vietnamese people. In this sense, social solidarity and development appear closely associated with one another. The Conference had the following subtopics: 1. The relationship between social solidarity and development; 2. Social solidarity and development in the multi-cultural context; 3. The role of the state in promoting social solidarity and development; 4. Social solidarity, development and market economy; 5. The role of social organizations in promoting social solidarity for social development; and 6. Global solidarity and sustainable development.

The conference was held in Ha Long Bay, a beautiful coast city about 150 km from Hanoi and a designated World Heritage Site (1994). At the opening **Pham Van Duc** and **João J. Vila-Chã** spoke on behalf of VASS and the RVP. **Quang Ninh**, the head of the Ha Long Bay province welcomed the participants. The first plenary session chaired by **Pham Van Duc** and **João J. Vila-Chã** included the



A Group Photo



A Group Photo

following speakers: **Dang Nguyen Anh** (VASS) "The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Social Solidarity and Social Development in Vietnam," **João J. Vila-Chã** "The City as Modality of Being-in-the-World: Urbanization and the Challenges of Sustainability," **Nguyen Trong Chuan** (VASS) "Social Solidarity Is the Crucial Premise for Sustainable Development in Vietnam in the Era of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence."

The second plenary session was moderated by **Dang Nguyen Anh** and **John Farina** (George Mason University) and included presentations by **Luong Dinh Hai** (VASS) "Social Solidarity and Social Development in the New Context of Vietnam Today," **Sandip Chatterjee** (Bengal Institute of Technology, India) "Global Solidarity for Sustainable Development: The Role of Religion in the Light of Hinduism and Buddhism," **Nguyen Thi Lan Huong** (VASS) "The Role of Religion in Social Solidarity for Sustainable Development: A Case Study on Religions in Southwest Vietnam." The third session was chaired by **Vo Khanh Vinh** (VASS) and **Dariusz Dobrzański** with the follow presentations: **John Farina** "Metapolitics and the Sources of Social Solidarity," **Ho Viet Hanh** (GASS) "Social Solidarity and the Role of the State on Social Solidarity," **Dariusz Dobrzański** "Successes and Failures of the Solidarity Movement," **Hoang Thuc Lan** (VASS) "Promoting the Role of the State on Building the Great National Unity Block in Vietnam Today." The fourth session was moderated by **Nguyen Trong Chuan** and **Luong Dinh Hai** and presented by **Ho Sy Quy** (VASS) "Vietnamese Culture Today: The Positive Change and the Obstacles to Social Development and Social Solidarity," **P.K. Pokker** (Calicut university, India) "Citizen of the Global Village and Multicultur-



A Conference Session



A Conference Session

alism: The Roots of Philosophical Understanding,” **Fatchiah Kertamuda** (University of Paramadina, Indonesia) “Social Solidarity ‘Gotong-royong’ in the Context of Indonesia Culture.” The fifth session was moderated by **Ho Si Quy** and **Ho Viet Hanh** with the presentations by **Nguyen Ngoc Ha** (VASS) “Social Solidarity: Some Theoretical and Practical Issues in etnam,” **Jiang Yanyang** (Yangzhou University, China) “Geopolitical Risk and Measures of Pakistan from the Belt and Road Perspective: Take China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as an Example,” **Tran Nguyen Viet** (VASS) “Social Solidarity as a Traditional Value and its Role in Social Development Conditions in Vietnam.” The sixth session was hosted by **Bui Nguyen Khanh** (GASS) and **Nguyen Nhu Phat** (VASS) and presented by **Nguyen Anh Tuan** (VASS) “An Outline of the Solution to Build Social Solidarity,” **Sukla Chatterjee** (West Bengal State University, India) “Nature, Women and Eco-feminism,” and **Wu Jiahua** (Yangzhou University, China) “A Review of the Research on the ‘the Belt and Road’ Communication in Overseas Media.”



Tran Tuan Phong



Nguyễn Ngọc Toan

At the closing session **Pham Van Duc** and **João J. Vila-Chã** summarized the entire conference and gave concluding remarks respectively. **Bui Nguyen Khanh**, Vice President of GASS, **Tran Tuan Phong**, Vice Director of Institute of Philosophy of VASS and **Nguyen Ngoc Toan**, Director of Department of Personnel, Scientific Management and International Cooperation of GASS coordinated the preparation of the conference. After the conference some of the participants visited Ha Long Bay as well as Hanoi.



A Conference Session

Shenyang, P.R. China

December 28, 2019 (Liaoning University): “Global Governance: Cross-Cultural Communication and Values Consensus.” This conference was planned and conceived by **Xie Xiaojuan**, Professor and Dean of the School of Marxism, Liaoning University, Shenyang. It was the second such a joint conference between the School and the RVP. The first conference was held in December 2014 on “Values Conflict and Consensus in the Cultural Diversity.” **Gao Siyang**, Professor from the same School coordinated both meetings. Liaoning Century Educational Research Institute, Shenyang and the School of Marxism of Henan University of Technology, Zhengzhou co-organized the second conference.



Xia Xiaojuan



Fang Guangshun

The focus of the conference was specifically on global governance and value consensus. As the description addressed in the age of globalization, global governance has been put on the agenda. Many common challenges should be thought and solved through global governance. However, different countries have different opinions on how to conduct global governance. Although there have been some achievements in this regard since the second half of the 20th century, there are still serious

differences in fundamental issues. Since the beginning of the 21st century, the needs for the reform of global governance have been growing. Many questions have arisen: How to improve global governance effectively? What are the basic values for global governance? Can different values of different countries and different cultures achieve a mutual respect based on equality? How to build consensus among diverse opinions? The discussion of these issues requires an international perspective and dialogue among scholars from different cultural backgrounds. For this reason this conference provided a platform of communication and conversation for scholars with perspectives to develop mutual understanding on issues related to global governance and value consensus in these complex global times. The topics of the conference included (1) global issues and the dilemma and approaches of global governance, (2) concept construction and institutional exploration of global governance, (3) significance of cross-cultural communication and dialogue for global governance, (4) global gov



At the Opening Session



A Group Photo

ernance from the perspective of building a community with a shared future for humankind, (5) enlightenment of "belt and road" construction on global governance, (6) China's solutions and contributions in the reform and construction of global governance system, and (7) Chinese governance in the perspective of global governance.



A Conference Session

Zhang Shiqing (Honorary Director of the Liaoning Century Educational Research Institute) chaired the opening session; **Xie Xiaojun** and **Jiang Dujun** (Dean of the School of Marxism, Henan University of Technology) remarked on the importance of the conference thematic and their wishes for the success of the conference. **Liu Yong** (Professor of Tongji University, Shanghai) chaired the first session and **Hu Yeping** presented a paper on the meaning of democracy and the common good;



A Group Photo



A Conference Session

John McNerney (Visiting Scholar at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC) delivered a talk on human person and how language and friendship can help cultural communication; and **João J. Vila-Chã** spoke on the challenges and opportunities of global governance and globalization in the current world situation. **Li Suxia** (Dean of School of Marxism of Hebei Normal University, Shijiazhuang) chaired the second session with the following speakers presented their papers: **Liu Yong**, **Qu Hongmei** (Jilin University, Changchun), **Wang Ximan** (Liaoning University), **Lu Zhongping** (Nanchang University, Nanchang), **Yang Zengdong** (Beijing Normal University, Beijing), **Huo Junliang** (Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan), **Ai Zhiqiang** (Liaoning University of Technology, Shenyang), **Wang Yunxia** (Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun) and **He Haixiang** (Zhejiang Yuexiu University of Foreign Languages, Shaoxing).

In the first half of the afternoon there were three parallel sessions with a number of young scholars presented their research papers. **Tian Junqiang** (Henan University of Technology, Zhengzhou), **Deng Xianchao** (Jiangxi University of Science and Technology, Ganzhou), **Gao Siyang** (Liaoning University), **Guan Wei** (Dalian University of Science and Technology, Dalian) and **Li Zhengjun** (Liaoning University) chaired the three sessions respectively on "Cross-Cultural Communication and Global Governance," "Governance of China in the Perspective of Global Governance," and "Community with a Shared Future for Humankind and Obligations of Young Scholars."

In the second half of the afternoon two more panel presentations took place. **Qu Hongbo** (Dean of the School of Marxism of Shenyang Aerospace University, Shenyang) chaired the first session and the following speakers presented their papers: **Geetesh Nirban** (Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, India) on the mindfulness and global governance; **Edgaras Skrebe** (Vilnius Univer-



A Conference Session

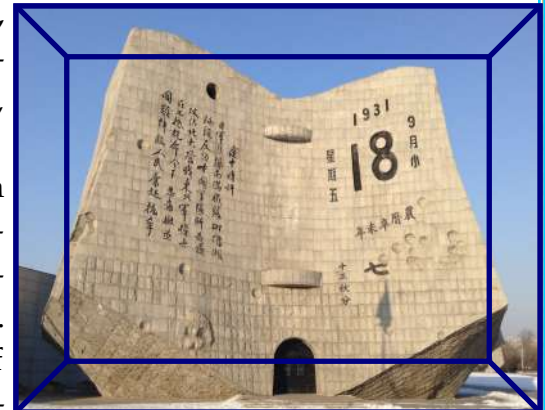


A Conference Session

sity, Lithuania) on teaching Eastern philosophy to Western students; and **Kristina Baranovaite** (Vilnius University, Lithuania) on **Oswald Spengler's** view on the West. **Ma Qinan** (General Secretary of the School of Marxism of Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shenyang) chaired the second session with the following presentations: **Han Fengrong** (Beijing Youth Politics College, Beijing), **Li Haitao** (Henan University of Technology, Zhengzhou), **Meng Qingyan** (Liaoning University), **Liu Shiyu** (Shenyang Jianzhu University, Shenyang), **Xing Jianhua** (Fujian University of Technology, Fuzhou), **Ren Shou shuang** (Harbin Medical University, Harbin), and **Dong Haitao** (Yingkou Institute of Technology, Yingkou).

Before the concluding session three representatives from the three parallel sessions provided a detailed summary respectively drawn from the three sessions in order that all participants could learn what had been said in other sessions. **Fang Guangshun** (Secretary of the School of Marxism of Liaoning University) gave the concluding remarks. The conference was well-attended; participants expressed their great interests in continuation of the exploration of these important issues. The summary of the conference was reported by the Chinese Social Sciences Net (see the line <http://ex.cssn.cn/>).

After the conference some participants visited China Museum of Industry in Shenyang to learn the history of the Chinese industrial development. They also visited the 9.18 Historical Museum about the incident occurred on September 18, 1931 near Shenyang which led to the invasion and



A Visit to the Industry Museum

occupation of the Japanese army in China till 1945.



Gao Siyang

Hohhot, P.R. China

December 30, 2019 (Inner Mongolia Normal University): “Cultural Communication and Building a Community with a Shared Future for Humankind.” This conference was initiated by **Li Chunhui**, Dean of the School of Marxism of the Inner Mongolian Normal University and planned to hold it in July 2020. Due to some changes the meeting was advanced to December 2019. Despite the cold tempera-



Li Chunhui



At the Opening Session



He Rui

ture (20 below zero in celsius) **He Rui**, Secretary of the School, led a group of volunteers to come to the Hohhot airport to meet foreign participants and took them to the Inner Mongolian Museum and Dazhao (a Tibetan Buddhist) Temple.

In order to search for a proper development path of human society in this diverse and multicultural world it is necessary for scholars and thinkers to look into the deep pattern of economic structure and ideological culture in the new era. The proposition of building a “common community of a shared human destiny” by the Chinese people is an important part of the process of socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics. It is based on the Chinese rich traditional culture as well as values of global multiculturalism in the age of post-industrial civilization. This invites profound theoretical studies and relevant practical experiences. How to build a common community of a shared human destiny in this pluralistic world? What can the Chinese people make their unique contributions in facing the unprecedented changes in the global world of this century? What is culture? What is human development? This conference provided an academic platform for scholars, especially for the young and middle-aged scholars, to share their research findings on these topics as well as to promote dialogue and exchange of diverse cultures. The conference covered a set of topics: (1) diversity of human civilizations, (2) changes in the world of the past century, (3) culture

“文化交流与人类命运共同体构建”国际学术研讨会

International Conference on Cultural Communication and Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

内蒙古·呼和浩特 2019年12月30日 Hohhot Inner Mongolia December 30th, 2019



A Group Photo



A Conference Session

and social development, (4) comparative studies between Chinese and foreign cultures, (5) the common community of a shared destiny for humankind, and (6) the world significance of China's Road for building a common community.

Li Chunhui chaired the opening session. **Zhao Donghai** (Vice President of the Inner Mongolia University) and **João J. Vila-Chã**, gave their opening remarks. **Liu Yong** chaired the first keynote speech session with **Zhong Minghua** (Sun Yet-Sen University, Guangzhou) and **John McNerney** delivered their lectures. **Ma Jun** (Inner Mongolia University of Technology, Hohhot) chaired the second session with the following speakers who presented their papers: **Song Chaolong** (Peking University), **Liu Yong** (Tongji University, Shanghai), **Li Dan** (Xiamen University, Xiamen), **Qin Long** (Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin), **Wu Feng** (Inner Mongolia University of Finance and Economics, Hohhot). **Bao Yingshan** (Inner Mongolia University of Finance and Economics) chaired the Youth Forum and the speakers included **Yang Zengdong** (Beijing Normal University, Beijing), **Lin Zhao** (Sun Yet-Sen University), **Zhao Bo** (Chengdu University of Technology, Chengdu) and **Wang Ya** (Inner Mongolia Normal University).

In the afternoon there were three parallel sessions. **Li Hui** (Inner Mongolia University of Technology) chaired the first session "Research on the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind" and **Zhao Tuya** (Inner Mongolia Normal University) summarized and commented all presentations in this session: **Liu Shumei** (Inner Mongolia Normal University) "The Union of Heaven and Man and the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind"; **Ma Guoli** (Inner Mongolia University of Technology) "The Chinese Contribution to the Prosperity of the World"; **Edgaras Skrebe** "Eastern Ethics for Western Students"; **Geetesh Nirban** "Mindfulness as a Way of Life"; **Wang Qichang**



A Conference Session



A Group Photo

(Inner Mongolia University of Finance and Economics) “The Feasibility and Related Suggestions for Humankind: The Economic Corridor of China, Mongolia and Russia in a Belt and Road Model”; **Zhang Ruijun** (Inner Mongolia Normal University) “The Communist Implication of the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind.” Besides presenters there were more than 30 participants who attended the session.

Li Yanfen (Hohhot Vocational College) chaired the second session “Research on the Community of National Culture and a Shared Future for Humankind” and **Wang Lihua** (Inner Mongolia Normal University) gave summaries and comments for the presentations. The speakers in this session included **Wu Jing** (Inner Mongolia University, Hohhot) “Intercultural Understanding and the Construction of the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind”; **Wang Xuesong** (Inner Mongolia University of Technology) “Research on the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind in the Perspective of Cultural Philosophy”; **John McNerney** “The Human Person: Language and Friendship as Oases of Human Communication”; **Kristina Baranovaite** “The Problem of Eurocentrism and Diversity of Cultures in History of Philosophy”; **Zhang Nan** (Inner Mongolia University of Agriculture) “The Chinese Wisdom for Promoting the Construction of the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind”; **Li Huiqing** (Inner Mongolia Normal University) “Xi Jinping’s Thought about National Unity and Progress and the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind.” In addition to the speakers more than 20 people participated in this session.

Yue Dongqing (Inner Mongolia Medical University) chaired the third session “Community Studies in a Multicultural Perspective” and **Ma Haishan** (Inner Mongolia Normal University) made



A Visit to the Museum

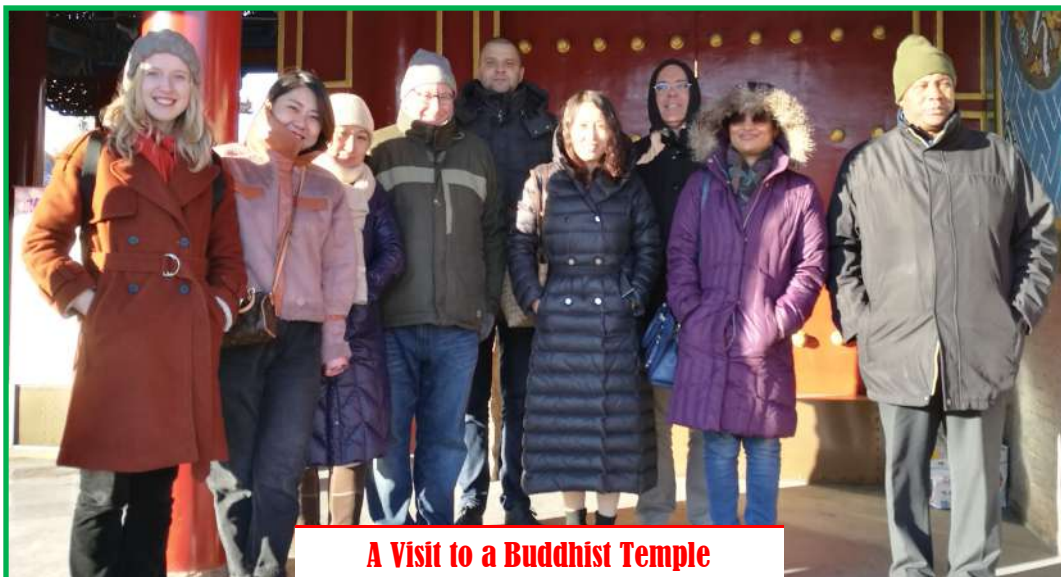


A Conference Session

comments on all the presentations: **Wang Dao-wei** (Inner Mongolia University of Technology) “Research on the Discourse System of the Community of a Shared Future for Humankind”; **Cao Qingbo** (Inner Mongolia Medical University) “Research on the Consciousness of the Community of the Chinese Nation”;

Xu Xingjie (Inner Mongolia Normal University) “National Unity Education in Colleges and Universities in the Perspective of Multiculturalism”; **Charles Kitima** “Global Governance and Global Economy”; and **João J. Vila-Chã** “Governance and the Challenges of the Common Good.” Another 20 people took part in this session.

Li Chunhui chaired a special session for two editors to introduce their journals: **Jiang Sudong**, Chief Editor of *Studies of Marxist Theoretical Disciplines* and **Liu Jianming**, Chief Editor of *Theoretical Discussion*. **He Rui** chaired a session for the three commentators of the three parallel sessions to provide a summary of each session to



A Visit to a Buddhist Temple

all the participants. **He Rui** also chaired the final session; **Hu Yeping** gave a concluding remark and presented some of RVP books to the library of the Inner Mongolia Normal University. The conference ended with a great success and warm reception (see the report <http://max.imnu.edu.cn/>). Although the outside temperature was 20 below, seminar participants, especially the foreign visitors, felt the warm hospitality of the people in Inner Mongolia.



A Group Photo of a panel

Xian, P.R. China

December 31, 2019 (Xian University of Architecture and Technology): “Cultural Communication and Building a Community with a Shared Future for Humankind.” This conference was the continuation of the previous two meetings held at Liaoning University in Shenyang and Inner Mongolia Normal University in Hohhot. All the three conferences were coordinated by **Liu Yong**, Professor of Tongji University, Shanghai and Yangzhou University, Yangzhou as well as Guest Professor of Inner Mongolia Normal University and Xian University of Architecture and Technology. **Liu Yong** was a visiting scholar at the CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values, 2013-2014 and took part in the RVP annual seminar in 2014 on “Justice and Responsibility: Cultural and Philosophical Considerations” along with some international participants from Canada, China, India, Iran, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine as well as the United States.



Li Xiane



Liu Yong

Li Xiane, Dean of the School of Marxism of Xian University of Architecture and Technology, and her colleagues planned and hosted this conference at the Tianyu Gloria Grand Hotel in Xian. At the opening **Zhang Zhichang** (Vice Secretary of the CPC of the University), **Jiang Xudong** (Chief Editor of *Studies of Marxist Theoretical Disciplines*), **Wei Yan** (Director of Theory Department of *Shaanxi Daily*) and **Hu Yeping** spoke on behalf of their institutions. **Li Xiane** chaired the opening session.

The first session was chaired by **Tian Peng** (Xian Jiaotong University, Xian) and presented by **John McNerney** on the human person and language and friendship; **Geetesh Nirban** on altruism as a life skill and an ethical value; and both **João J. Vila-Chã** and **Charles Kitima** discussed on the challenges of global governance from ethical as well as economic perspectives. **Jiang Wei** and **Li Zhihong** translated their talks. **Hui Guoqin** (Executive Chief Editor of *Theoretical Investigation*) chaired the second session with the following speakers: **Liang Guilin** (Shaanxi History Museum) “Tea and Culture in Cultural Exchange between China and Foreign Countries”; **Tian Peng** “Confucius Institute and Chinese Cultural Communication: Opportunities and Challenges.”

Gu Fan (Xian University of Architecture and Technology) chaired the third session which included the such presenters as **Yuan Zushe** (Shaanxi Normal University, Xian) “Culture Conflict and Value Accommodation in the Age of Post-Globalization: The Background, Essence and Approaches”; **Liu Jintian** (Northwest University of Political Science and Law, Xian) “A Study on A Com-



A Group Photo



A Group Photo

munity with a Shared Future for Humankind and Common Human Values”; **Liu Yong** “Community with a Shared Future for Humankind from the Perspective of Multiculturalism”; **Chen Jianbing** (Xian Jiaotong University) “Community with a Shared Future for Humankind from



A Conference Session

the Perspective of Proletarian Internationalism”; **Yin Jie** (Xian University of Technology, Xian) “Studies on Chinese Culture Communication in New Era in View of One Belt and One Road”; **Gao Zhengang** (Xian University of Sciences and Technology, Xian) “The Historical Logic of the Emergence of Community with a Shared Future for Humankind.”



A Conference Session



A Conference Session

The fourth session was chaired by **Zhang Hongcheng** (Xian University of Architecture and Technology) and presented by **Li Xiuzhen** (Xian Jiaotong University) "The Biggest Change in a Century" and the Role of China"; **Zhou Taishan** (Xian University of Architecture and Technology) "On the Marxist View of Compromise and its Guiding Significance for Building a Community with a Shared Future for Humankind"; **Gao Xiaosheng** (Northwest University of Agriculture and Forestry, Xian) "The International Influence of the Belt and Road Initiative"; **Sun Kunming** (Xian University of Architecture and Technology) "The Dimension of Cultivating the Historical Awareness of College Students about Four Confidences"; **He Haitao** (Xian University of Architecture and Technology) "On the Individual Situation in the Evolution of the Theory of Community"; and **Hou Qiuyue** (Xian University of Architecture and Technology) "Social Principal Contradiction in the New Era: The Expression of Current Situation of Consumer Culture in China."

Jiang Xudong chaired the concluding session and **Liu Yong** summarized all the presentations and expressed gratitude to the local organizer. The conference was reported by The Chinese Social Sciences Net (<http://news.cssn.cn/zx/>). Some participants visited the Shaanxi History Museum and spent the last day of 2019 and the first day of 2020 in Xian. Xian is well-known for its rich history and terracotta army. It was the capital of the first Chinese Emperor and a number of following dynasties in the long Chinese history.



A Visit to History Museum



The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) is a 501C3 not-for-profit entity with the following goals, objectives and operations.

Goals:

To understand and appreciate the cultures and values that shape aspirations and motivate actions.

To understand one's own and other cultures and develop a positive yet critical appreciation thereof.

To build cooperation among peoples by providing horizons that heal deep tensions and promote peace and friendship on a global scale.

Objectives:

To mobilize research teams to study the nature, interpretation and development of cultures and to apply them to the challenges of contemporary change.

To publish and distribute the results of these efforts.

To organize extended seminars for deeper exploration of these issues and regional conferences for the coordination of this work.

Operations:

Research teams applying the resources of the cultural traditions to contemporary issues, and six to ten week annual seminars in Washington, D.C., for international scholars and representatives of the research teams.

Regional meetings for mutual critique and planning by these teams, and periodic world conferences for exchange of results on a global level.

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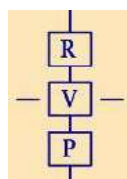
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Gibbons Hall B-20, 620 Michigan Avenue, North East, Washington, DC, 20064; Telephone: (202)319-6089; Email: cua-rvp@cua.edu; Website: www.crvp.org