

Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society
5th Annual Conference
Tsuchitoi campus, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan
Thursday, 10 September – Saturday, 12 September, 2009

Call for Papers

The Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society (APECSS) – formerly Western Pacific Rim Patristics Society (WPRPS) – invites proposals for papers to be delivered at its fifth annual conference to be held at Tsuchitoi campus of Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan, from Thursday morning, 10 September, to Saturday afternoon, 12 September, 2009. Papers are 30 minutes in duration (20 minutes delivery and 10 minutes for discussion). The Society welcomes all proposals that explore **any** theme relevant to the early Christian world from the New Testament to the end of Late Antiquity, and especially those that focus on this year's theme: **Letters in Early Christianity**.

Ever since Paul of Tarsus produced the first piece of Christian literature, letter-writing has been a characteristic feature of early Christianity. From the purely personal to the authoritative decrees of synods and bishops, from the anonymous fragments of individual letters to the collections by Ignatius of Antioch, Cyprian, Basil, Jerome, John Chrysostom, Augustine, Paulinus of Nola, Severus of Antioch, and Gregory the Great, such correspondence is a valuable source for understanding the social, historical, theological, literary, political, cultural, philosophical and psychological dimensions of early Christianity. This year we would like to explore how letters (both in terms of their content and the practice of letter-writing itself) were used by early Christians and others across the entire spectrum of Christianity in the Late Antique world. With limitless possibilities for presenters this conference should be of interest to everyone interested in early Christianity from the New Testament to the end of Late Antiquity.

A 100-word abstract should be sent by 30 April, 2009 to Dr. Geoffrey D. Dunn (geoffrey.dunn@acu.edu.au). Further questions can be addressed to him. Other proposals besides the conference theme are most welcome. Papers are presented in English. Our practice is that conference presenters distribute copies of their papers in English to participants to minimise language difficulties. Presenters need to bring their own copies for distribution. Registration forms and further details will be available on the Society's website at www.cecs.acu.edu.au/apecss.htm. There will be an opportunity for some cultural event in Sendai on Saturday late afternoon after the conference. A conference dinner will be held on Friday 11 September.

On 12-13 September Sendai may be busy with tourists because a popular street Jazz festival will be held all around the city. It is advisable to book hotels as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

Toyoko Inn Sendai Chuo Itichome Itiban has an English and Korean (but not Russian) website for online bookings and is now available for September bookings.

APA Villa Hotel has an English webpage, but the reservation page is only in Japanese.

If you find it difficult to book Japanese hotels from your country, please contact Kazuhiko Demura (kdemura@aol.com) as soon as possible and he will help.

For the hotel brochures please click on hotel's name or visit their website.

Toyoko Inn Sendai Chuo Iti-chome Iti-ban

http://www.toyoko-inn.com/e_hotel/00058/index.html

(Reasonable Web reservation available close to the JR Sendai Station and University)

APA Villa Hotel Sendaieki-Itsutsubashi

<http://www.apahotel.com/~language/en/hotel/sendaieki-itsutsubashi/index.html>

(also reasonable)

Sendai Kokusai Hotel

<http://www.tobu-skh.co.jp/english/english.htm>

(Closest to the University)

Holiday Inn Sendai

<http://www.holidayinn.com>

There are domestic flights from Tokyo Narita, Nagoya, and Osaka to Sendai. The JR Shinkansen (Bullet Train) travels from Tokyo station (about 1 hour from Narita airport on Narita Express [NEX] – the www.jreast.co.jp/e/nex/index.html - or 90 minutes on the Airport Narita Rapid Service) to Sendai station in 1 hour and 36 minutes – www.jreast.co.jp/e/routemaps/shinkansen.html. Most of the recommended hotels are about a 10-minute walk from the train station, closer if one goes from Sendai subway station to Itsutsubashi subway station. The university – www.tohoku-gakuin.ac.jp/en/index.html - is probably another 10-to-15-minute walk from the hotels.

Tokyo (Narita Airport) and Sendai City are within the Japan Railways East (JR-East) area. A normal return ticket with the super express train (Tohoku Shinkansen or Akita Shinkansen) costs ¥25,800. As an alternative, you can purchase a JR-East Pass (either the flexible any 4 days in a month or the 5 consecutive days) in Ordinary class for ¥20,000 (the Green or First class version costs ¥28,000). However, there will be a JR-East Special Pass for overseas visitors, which goes on sale from 1 September. A flexible (any 3 days in the month) pass for Ordinary class (both reserved and non-reserved seats) will cost ¥10,000. This is great value for money and highly recommended. Please see www.jreast.co.jp/e/eastpass/index.html for details.

Please note that if you are travelling to other parts of Japan, like Kyoto or other parts in the west of the country after the conference, you will need instead the Japan Rail Pass (e.g. 7 days for ¥28,300).

If you need an official invitation for your visa application, please contact Kazuhiko Demura (kdemura@aol.com) as soon as possible.



ASIA-PACIFIC EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES SOCIETY
5th Annual Conference

LETTERS IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Tohoku Gakuin University
10-12 September, 2009

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

10:15 **Registration** (Tsuchitoi Campus, Building 8, level 3, room 1)

10:50 **Conference Information** (Building 8, level 3, room 2)
Kazuhiko DEMURA, Miyako DEMURA

11:00 **Opening Ceremony** (Building 8, level 3, room 2)
Welcome from Prof. Nozomu HOSHIMIYA, President of Tohoku Gakuin University and response from
Geoffrey D. DUNN on behalf of APECSS

11:05 **Opening Lecture** (plenary) (Building 8, level 3, room 2)

Chair: Miyako DEMURA

TSUJI, Manabu (Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan) – Beyond the original context: reception of the
Pauline letters in the first century

12:25 **Lunch** (Cafeteria, Building 10)

13:30 **Session 1** (Parallels 1A and 1B)

1A Augustine (Building 8, level 3, room 3)

Chair: Geoffrey D. DUNN

DEMURA, Kazuhiko (Okayama University) – On the context and development of Augustine's early
commentaries on the Pauline letters

KAMIMURA, Naoki (Tokyo Metropolitan University) – Spiritual exercises in the letters of Augustine

KATO, Takeshi (Rikkyo University) – Verbum-Vox-Sonum

1B Egyptian Christianity (Building 8, level 3, room 4)

Chair: Naoki KUWABARA

CHOAT, Malcolm (Macquarie University) – The early monastic letter in Egypt

NAKAMURA, Yasuhide (Chuo University) – The love of God in Origen: his understanding of *philanthropia*

DEMURA, Miyako (Tohoku Gakuin University) – Reception of the Pauline letters and the formation of the
canonical principle in Origen of Alexandria

15:00 **Afternoon tea** (Building 8, level 3, room 2)

15:30 **Session 2** (Parallels 2A and 2B)

2A Italian Christianity (Building 8, level 3, room 3)

Chair: Naoki KAMIMURA

KRITZINGER, Koos (University of Pretoria) – St. Jerome on letters and letter-writing

KWON, Junghoo (University of St. Michael's College) – Letters of Eusebius of Vercelli and the dating of the pseudo-Athanasian *De trinitate*

NEIL, Bronwen (Australian Catholic University) – From *tristia* to *gaudia*: the letters from exile of Ovid and Pope Martin I

2B General themes (Building 8, level 3, room 4)

Chair: Shigeki TSUCHIHASHI

LOURIÉ, Basil (Scrinium, St. Petersburg) – Dionysius Areopagite as Peter Iberian: M. van Esbroeck's thesis, More than 'dix ans après'

OHTANI, Satoshi (Tohoku University) – Why was the concept of martyrdom created?

TODA, Satoshi (Hitotsubashi University) – On the so-called 'political theology' of Eusebius of Caesarea

17:00 **Reception** (Building 8, level 3, room 2)

18:00 **Session 3** (plenary) (Building 8, level 5, Oshikawa Memorial Hall)

Keynote Presentation I

Chair: Kazuhiko DEMURA

Welcome: Prof. Shoichi WATANABE, Open Research Center for Research in European Globalization, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai

DUNN, Geoffrey D. (Australian Catholic University) – Papal letters of the early fifth century: the example of Innocent I

19:30 **Dinner** (own arrangements)

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

8:45 **Session 4** (plenary) (Building 8, level 3, room 3)

Korean Poverty Project I

Chair: Pauline ALLEN

SUH, Wonmo (Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul) – Poverty and riches in the later Roman empire

CHO, Byoung-ha (Baeseok University, Seoul) – Cyprian's teaching in his *De opere et eleemosynis*

YEUM, Changseon (Hoseo University, Seoul) – Patristic interpretation of 'daily bread' in the Lord's Prayer

10:15 **Morning tea** (Building 8, level 3, room 2)

10:50 **Session 5** (plenary) (Building 8, level 3, room 3)

Korean Poverty Project II

Chair: Kazuhiko DEMURA

HA, Sung-Soo (Sogang University, Seoul) – Gregory of Nyssa's understanding of slavery

LEE, Eun Hye (Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul) – The search for John

Chrysostom's ideal concerning the poor, the rich, and the authentic Christian community

NAM, Sung Hyun (Hanyoung Theological University, Seoul) – Idealisation of poverty and condemnation of rich in early monastic literature

12:20 **lunch** (Cafeteria, Building 10)

13:30 **Session 6** (Parallels 6A and 6B)

6A Eucharist and mission (Building 8, level 3, room 3)

Chair: Hennie STANDER

CRAIG, Barry (Diocese of Cairns) – Images of unity in bread and wine in the letters of Cyprian of Carthage

KUWABARA, Naoki (University of Tsukuba) – The role of Jesuit letters in the 16th and 17th centuries for their missionary work

6B Syrian Christianity (Building 8, level 3, room 4)

Chair: Wonmo SUH

BOTHA, Phil J. (University of Pretoria) – Ephrem's fictitious use of the epistolary form in his first *Discourse for Hypatius*

YOUSSEF, Youhanna Nessim (Australian Catholic University) – The synodical letter from Severus to John of Alexandria

14:30 **APECSS Annual General Meeting** (Building 8, level 3, room 4)

15:00 (optional) Departure from Tohoku Gakuin University for **cultural experience** to Sendai City Museum (approximate cost ¥1,000)

19:00 **Conference dinner** (Ducca East Square restaurant, 1-10-23, Chuo, Aoba-ku, Sendai, in front of JR Sendai Station)

SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

9:15 **Session 7** (plenary)

Eastern Christianity (Building 8, level 3, room 3)

Chair: Bronwen NEIL

BARANOV, Vladimir (Novosibirsk State University) – Constructing the underground community: the letters of Theodore the Studite and the letter of emperor Michael II to Louis the Pious

TSUCHIHASHI, Shigeki (Chuo University) – *Apatheia* and *metriopatheia* in Basil of Caesarea's consolatory letters

10:15 **Morning tea** (Building 8, level 3, room 2)

10:50 **Session 8** (plenary) (Building 8, level 3, room 4)

Letter-Writing

Chair: Satoshi TODA

ALLEN, Pauline (Australian Catholic University) – How to study letter-writing in Late Antiquity: an overview of published work on the fifth and sixth centuries

GENCHEVA-MIKAMI, Iskra V. (Kawamura Women's University) – Anonymous letters in Late Antiquity as an independent epistolary genre

STANDER, Hennie (University of Pretoria) – Chrysostom on letters and letter-writing

12:20 **Lunch** (own arrangements)

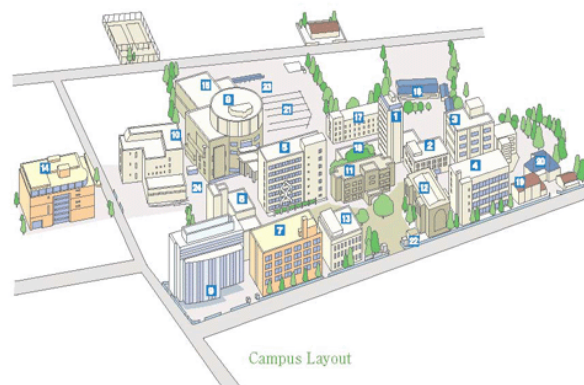
14:00 **Session 9** (plenary) (Building 8, level 5, Oshikawa Memorial Hall)

Chair: Miyako DEMURA

Welcome: Prof. Katsuhiko SASAKI, Institute for Research in Christianity and Culture

PARRY, Ken (Macquarie University) – The lotus and cross: early Christianity in China and India

16:00 departure



Map of Sendai campus



Map of Ducca Restaurant



Exterior of Ducca Restaurant

The conference in Sendai was another success for our society. The theme of letters in early Christianity saw a range of interesting papers from the New Testament to the end of late antiquity. The presence of the team of six South Korean scholars working on poverty in the early church added another rich dimension to the international nature of our organisation. Thanks must go to Miyako Demura of Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, ably assisted by Kazuhiko Demura during his sabbatical and the team of students from the university, for all their efforts in preparing for our visit. Delegates also enjoyed a visit to the site of Sendai Castle and an elegant conference dinner. We look forward to gathering together next year in Melbourne for our next meeting.

