

Religion and Value Education between Asia and Europe

May 15-16, 2025

**LUX (Helgonavägen 3, 22362 Lund, Sweden)
Room: C214**

**Organized by
Esther-Maria GUGGENMOS, Yulin LÜ, Erica M. LARSON**

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This conference brings together scholars from Europe and Asia to discuss religion and value education in diverse societies. Flows of migration and global exchange transformed and continue to transform religion and value education across Europe and Asia.

In Europe, confessional Christian education in religiously open societies is increasingly experienced as a challenge and calls for differentiation and new approaches. European societies have taken different paths and found new ways of offering religious knowledge across traditions. In East, South East and South Asia, religious diversity has been a lived reality for centuries while we can trace the emergence of the semantic category of "religion" in the Sinitic languages towards the end of the 19th century only. How does religious and value education currently look like across Asia? What are new approaches to adapt to the needs of global citizens, and how do these approaches relate civic and religious values? How can the rise of Life Education be understood? This conference intends to create a stimulating Asian-European exchange related to educational concepts of religion and value education.

Participants:

- Thithimadee ARPHATTANANON | Mahidol University
- Jenny BERGLUND | Stockholm University
- Esther-Maria GUGGENMOS | Lund University
- Chae Young KIM | Sogang University, Pres. Korean Association for the Study of Religious Education
- Giovanni LAPIS | Ca' Foscari University, Venice
- Erica LARSON | National University of Singapore
- Yulin LÜ | Lund University
- Synnøve MARKENG | University of Inland Norway
- Kristian NIEMI | Karlstad University

- Johannes SUN | Life Education Research Centre, National Taiwan University
- Thomas Kwan-choi TSE | The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Martin UBANI | University of Eastern Finland
- Bing WANG | Hong Kong Chu Hai College, Hong Kong

Thursday, May 15th, 2025

Day 1

9:00 **Welcome and Opening: A Shared Challenge? On the relevance of Euro-Asian encounters in the field of religion and value education** (Esther-Maria GUGGENMOS, Lund University)

9:30 **Session I: Being Religious, Being Moral – Public Moral and Religious Education in Asia Today**

Chair: Kristian NIEMI (Karlstad University, Sweden)

A Multi-religious Foundation for Civic Values and Personhood in Indonesian Education (Erica LARSON, National University of Singapore / Lund University)

New Religious-Educational Landscapes in Contemporary Korean Family: Tensions, Disagreements, New Ways (Chae Young KIM, Sogang University, Korea)

Multicultural Education and Religious Diversity in Thailand (Thithimadee ARPHATTANANON, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University, Thailand)

Discussant: Martin UBANI (University of Eastern Finland, Finland)

11:30 *Lunch Break*

13:00 **Ongoing Research Projects – FAITHED** (Synnøve MARKENG, Univ. of Inland Norway), **JREACT** (Giovanni LAPIS, Ca'Foscari Univ. of Venice), and others.

**13:30 Session II: Being Secular, Spiritual, or Muslim in
Scandinavia – Current Challenges in Religion/Religious
Education**

Chair: Thomas Kwan-choi TSE

When Sensitivity or Tolerance is Just Not Enough. Edification and literacy in pluralist worldviews education in post-confessional public education (Martin UBANI, University of Eastern Finland, Finland)

Teaching in the Islamic Supplementary Education in Norway: Educating Muslim youth to be global citizens? (Synnøve MARKENG, Univ. of Inland Norway, Norway)

Islamic Education in Scandinavia: Between Secular Ideals and Religious Identity (Jenny BERGLUND, Stockholm University, Sweden)

Discussant: Erica LARSON

15:30 *Coffee Break*

**16:00 Session III: Textbooks of Religion/Religious Education
between Asia and Europe**

Chair: Yulin LÜ (Lund University)

Developing Buddhist Teaching Materials for Hong Kong Schools: Exploratory approaches to religious and value education (Bing WANG, Centre of Buddhist Studies, Hong Kong Chu Hai College, Hong Kong)

Joint textbook exploration: Current depictions of religion in Europe within Asian textbooks and vice versa – Selected examples from participants

17:30 *End of Session III*

Friday, May 16, 2025

Day 2

**9:00 Session IV: The Case of Life Education – A New School
Subject in Taiwan**

Chair: Yulin LÜ (Lund University)

Three Questions of Life in Taiwan's Life Education (Johannes SUN Hsiao-Chih, National Taiwan University)

Doing Field Research on Life Education in Taiwan – A Field Report
(Esther-Maria GUGGENMOS, Lund University)

Discussant: Jenny BERGLUND (Stockholm University)

10:15 *Coffee Break*

**10:30 Session V: Hong Kong – Reforming Religious Education
for Global Citizens in Asia**

Chair: Johannes SUN

*School Religious Education Curricula across Religious Bodies in Hong
Kong* (Thomas Kwan-choi TSE, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

*Reframing Religious Education within the Public Education System:
Buddhist Education in Hong Kong* (Yulin LÜ, Lund University)

Discussant: Giovanni LAPIS

**11:45 General Discussion I: Common Grounds for Asian-
European Exchange on Religion and Value Education**

12:30 *Lunch Break*

**13:45 Session VI: Inspirations for Europe from Asian
Contexts?**

Chair: Erica LARSON

*Religious Literacy in a Post-Lutheran Context. Religious education for a
multicultural society* (Kristian NIEMI, Karlstad University)

*East Asian Religions as a Critical Lens for Intercultural Religious
Education. Theory and practice* (Giovanni LAPIS, Ca' Foscari University
of Venice)

Discussant: Esther-Maria GUGGENMOS

15:00 *Coffee Break*

15:30 General Discussion II: Outlook on the Future

17:30 *End of Conference*