



Asia-Oceania Junior Scholars Virtual Table

Leadership: [Stephanie Ann Puen](#) and [Pip McIlroy](#)

Languages: English, with openness to other languages depending on interest and available technology/skills.

Purpose:

The proposed virtual table has two major goals. The first goal is to help build the network and community of junior scholars (defined as scholars who are in their studies as well as within the first ten years of their career) in the CTEWC, especially as a support system, in particular in Asia-Oceania. The second goal aims to help junior scholars continue their professional development amidst the precarity of the academic job market that was compounded by the current moment, by being a space for the reflection, discernment, and scholarship of junior scholars to be shared. An output of the table would be suggestions (perhaps for the CTEWC) to help support junior scholars, as well as a more connected network of junior scholars within the CTEWC.

Some questions to be considered:

1. What distinct contribution can we make in service to the church in the world, given our particular contexts?
 - a. What research from the junior scholars can be shared and further refined for publication?
2. How do we understand and reflect on our vocation and discernment in light of the difficulties in and precarity of the academic job market?
3. Junior scholars, especially graduate students, teach many of the classes at the universities. How can we further develop our teaching, sensitive to the needs and contexts of our students in this time?
4. How can we support each other as a network of junior scholars? Given that COVID-19 has made it difficult for us to continue doing our research and care for each other, what resources do we need for both our professional development and personal care?

Reporting methodology:

Leadership of the virtual table will set the agenda and send it out to the table participants prior to the meeting, as well as take down notes using this agenda. Minutes will be taken down on a google doc for dissemination to the other virtual table participants after the meeting, so that it can be reviewed for errors. A summary

based on the minutes will be sent to the CTEWC by the virtual table leadership every 3 months.

Call for members:

How might junior scholars, particularly from Asia and Oceania, strengthen our network and professional development, particularly during this time of uncertainty? This virtual table invites junior scholars to reflect on what we can do to support each other through this difficult time, as well as continue our professional growth by offering a space for discussion and development of our scholarly research and public service. Interested junior scholars can contact the organizers.

Duration and meeting frequency:

Junior scholars can meet once every 4-6 weeks for an hour or an hour and a half each meeting, depending on the agenda and need. While the meetings will be by and for junior scholars, we will also be inviting senior scholars to join and contribute to the discussion, in order hear from their experience, as well as to connect to the regional and global virtual tables.