

Unification Theological Seminary: Join us on March 5 for First UTS Research Day

Thomas Ward
March 2, 2022



Unification Theological Seminary
Building Effectiveness in Ministry and Public Leadership

Dear UTS Alumni and Friends,

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for your support of the **UTS Giving for the Sake of Others Campaign**. With your help we were blessed to exceed our goal, and have raised more than \$52,000 so far that will be used towards scholarships for next generation leaders studying at UTS.

I would like to invite all of you to join us this **Saturday, March 5 from 2 to 3 PM EST** as UTS hosts its first UTS Research Day.

Research plays a central role in any graduate institution of higher education.

Join us this Saturday as a Member of the UTS Faculty and a UTS student are recognized for their contribution in the field.

Our Judges Professors William Lay, Christine Hempowicz and James Fleming

have all made their mark in the field of academic research and you will learn about that.

Prof. Fleming, nationally recognized professor, researcher, author, and UTS alum (1982,) will share thoughts with us about his own journey as a researcher and what it has taught him.

We invite you to view our finalists' posters and summary presentations at the link below. There, you will also find the link to the UTS Facebook Page, where you will be able to view the livestream of the program at 2 pm EST on Saturday.

I hope that you will join us.

All the best,



Thomas Ward

President, Unification Theological Seminary

[View Finalists and Access the UTS Facebook Page](#)



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- Admissions ▾
- Students ▾
- Conference Center ▾
- UTS-Online
- Upcoming Events ▾

Announcement of UTS Research Day Poster Competition Finalists

UTS RESEARCH DAY Poster Competition Finalists



Dr. Andrew Wilson



Dr. Keisuke Noda



Mr. Robert Duffy



Mélanie Komagata



Savjola Konja

Thank you to everyone who submitted their academic posters for the first UTS Research Day!

We are pleased to announce the following finalists for both the faculty competition and the student competition.

The winners of each competition will be announced on a live webinar on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 2 pm EST, which will be viewable on the [UTS Facebook page](#).

Faculty Competition

Dr. Keisuke Noda, UTS Professor of Philosophy
Ethical Paradoxes of Belief Systems: Viktor Frankl's Approach

Name: Keisuke Noda
Project Title **Ethical Paradoxes of Belief Systems: Viktor Frankl's Approach**

Abstract: While belief systems often promote positive values, such belief systems can also drive believers to commit violent acts against those who reject their beliefs or the authority of the group. This essay identifies the paradoxical problems of some belief systems and how Frankl's open/balanced approach to truth and placement of the locus of values on the individual shed light on resolving these paradoxes. The essay explores underlying

Ethical Paradoxes of Belief Systems: Viktor Frankl's Approach

Faculty Research Day, March 4, 2022
 Keisuke Noda, Ph.D.
 Professor of Philosophy



Methodology: Phenomenological and hermeneutic.

Next step: Articulate Frankl's hermeneutic by disclosing his mode of synthesis through reconstruction of: 1) his theory of truth; 2) concept of authority; 3) theory of values.

Above step will lead to a reconstruction of Frankl's hermeneutic phenomenology of human life.

Publications: Presented at the 23rd World Congress, Oct. 21-23, 2021, Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy, expected to be published in *International Forum of Logotherapy*.

Research Question: What are the problems of the philosophical assumptions that support exclusive superiority truth-claims of the belief-system, that entails devaluing those who reject their belief-system or the authority of the group? What paths does Frankl's approach to truth and values propose?

Findings: Paradoxical belief-systems are built on lack of critical scrutiny on the question of criteria of truth (what makes truth true); excessive reliance on the belief-system as the sole source of values; negligence of moral autonomy of individual as the context of meanings; Frankl's multidimensional approach and identification of the individual as the contexts of meaning are built on a balanced judgement on truth as correspondence, coherence, pragmatic, and experiential-existential.

Major Sources:
 Fetscher, R. (2001). *The Pursuit of Meaning*. Charlottesville, Virginia: Pavilion Research.
 Frankl, V. E. (1960). *The will as meaning: Foundations and applications of logotherapy*, expanded edition, with a new afterword by the author. New York: Meridian.
 Frankl, V. E. (2000). *Viktor Frankl: The man and his work*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press.
 Frankl, V. E. (2011). *Man's search for ultimate meaning*. London: Rider.
 Frankl, V. E. (2014). *Man's search for meaning*. Boston: Beacon Press.
 Kuhn, T. S. (1970). *The structure of scientific revolutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 Popper, K. R. (2002). *The logic of scientific discovery*. London: Routledge.
 Smart, N. (2006). *Worldviews: Critical Examinations of Religious Beliefs*. Longman, Quebec: Friesen, Inc.
 Van Manen, M. (2000). *Phenomenology of Practice: The Art of Meditative Inquiry*. New York: Routledge.

Acknowledgement: I thank Dr. Janeta Tancey, M.D. (psychiatry), Ph.D. (religious studies) and other Frankl scholars who gave insightful comments on the study.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, UTS Professor of Scriptural Studies
True Parents' Efforts for Religious Unity



True Parents' Efforts for Religious Unity
 Dr. Andrew Wilson

This presentation begins from the premise that interfaith unity is a requirement for establishment of a spiritual civilization. It reviews from the perspective of the Divine Principle the historical trend towards interfaith unity that developed mainly in the Christian world and describes the manifold efforts of Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han to bring it to completion.

Research questions:

- How should the trend towards interfaith unity be understood in light of God's providence as explained in the Divine Principle?
- What contributions have True Parents made to the quest for interfaith unity?
- What is the relationship between horizontal unity among religions and the vertical position of True Parents?

Findings:

- Affirms the Divine Principle's viewpoint for the continuity of Christianity in the historical trend towards the unity of religions.
- True Parents built their work for interfaith unity on the Christian foundation of America, beginning at UTS.
- The horizontal unity of religions is not inconsistent with affirming the vertical position of True Parents.
- The divine parental heart, more than commonality of doctrines, is the key to interfaith unity.
- In her worldwide efforts that substantiate Heavenly Parents' heart, Mother Moon has become the foremost exponent of religious unity.

Sources:

- Exposition of the Divine Principle
- Hak Ja Han Moon, *Mother of Peace*
- Sun Myung Moon, "America and God's Will," September 18, 1976, *World Explorer: A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts* (1976)
- Tyler Hombick, "God's Tyland," Oct. 4, 2000
- UTS Catalog 2005-2006

Methodology:

- Historical review
- Theological analysis

Proposed next steps:

- Document the underrepresented aspect of True Parents' work, especially in the ministry of Mother Moon

Publications:

- Presented at the IAAP section of the World Summit for Peace on the Korea Peninsula, February 13, 2022. It will be published in the first issue of *UJ Academic*

Acknowledgements:

Dr. Victor I. Kim, San Moon University

Quote: "I am fully aware of the dedication of the Prophet Muhammad in establishing the rich religious tradition of Islam and I regard many pre-eminent Muslim leaders I have met as my own sons."
 --Hak Ja Han Moon, *Mother of Peace*

Student Competition

Robert Duffy, Student in the Master of Arts in Religious Studies Program
"Whiteness" and Critical Race Theory in Modern Life



Robert Duffy
"WHITENESS" AND CRITICAL RACE THEORY IN MODERN LIFE

Abstract: Whiteness and CRT are in the public mind. These concepts should be explored by whites and non-whites alike as part of a civic duty to promote equality of human value for all members of society.

What has white culture contributed to modern society, and how can it best contribute to social equity in the unfolding global culture?

Some Terms:
 Whiteness: the fact or state of belonging to a population group that has light pigmentation of the skin.
 Critical Race Theory: a theoretical and interpretive model that examines the significance of race and racism across dominant cultural modes of expression.

Proponents and Critics
Critical Race Theory: Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, *Race, Power, and Politics*; Alexander Gillborn
Whiteness and White Privilege: Peggy McIntosh, *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*; Deepa Bhanu

Recommended Initiatives to address this:

- Research and study CRT for its strengths and weaknesses.
- Increase awareness of racial biases in public institutions.
- Promote concept of equal human value in personal life.
- Use public forum to promote awareness and build confidence in making social adjustments.

A paper has been submitted to the Professor of Peace and Development and President of the Unification Theological Seminary.

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?
 CRITICAL RACE THEORY EXPLAINED

Mélanie Komagata, Student in the Master of Arts in Religious Studies Program
A Solution to the Korean Question: A Neutral Reunified Korea

Savjola Konja, Student in the Master of Arts in Religious Studies Program
To Bless and Take Care for 430 Couples

Judges





Dr. Christine Hempowicz.

- UTS Alumna and Student Body Vice President (1986) and Current UTS Trustee.
- Former University of Bridgeport Director of Sponsored Research
Faculty Research Day Co-Chair at the University of Bridgeport
- UTS Adjunct Faculty for Research Methods
- Published in Springer's Technological Developments in Networking, Education and Automation.
- Contributor to the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) NCURA Magazine.
- Editor of UB Breakthroughs, highlighting scholarly research at the University of Bridgeport



Prof. William D. Lay

- Columbia University J.D. and Senior Editor of the Columbia Law Review
- Former Senior Associate of Skadden Arps
- Former Associate Fried Frank
- Former Law Clerk of New York Court of Appeal Judge Joseph Bellacosa
- Director of the School of Public & International Affairs and Chair of Criminal Justice & Human Security Programs at the University of Bridgeport
- UTS Adjunct Associate Professor of Law and Governance
- Published by E-International Relations; East Asia; Harvard Asia Quarterly; Columbia Law Review.



Dr. James R. Fleming

- UTS 1982 Alum and Student Body President
- Charles A. Dana Professor of Science, Technology, and Society, Emeritus, at Colby College
- Visiting Scholar and/or Professor at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, MIT, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Served on two National Academy of Sciences study panels, provided testimony to the U.S. Congress, and was a contributing author for the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change

- Series editor of Palgrave Studies in the History of Science and Technology
- Author of books and articles on history of science and the human dimensions of climate change published by MIT, Chicago, Columbia, Oxford, Johns Hopkins, and other university presses.
- Current research project is on the "Deocene" (or age of God) as both preceding and coextensive with the "Anthropocene" (or age of Man)



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