

**The Legacy of Chinese Christian Universities**

\* Prof. Ruth Hayhoe, Professor of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education, Univ. of Toronto

\* Dr. Leping Mou, Lecturer, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Univ. of Toronto

In this talk we will share thoughts that developed out of a recent translation project, in which we selected thirteen essays and book chapters recently published in China by historians and sociologists analysing the lessons learned from China's historic Christian universities. All of them were merged with public universities in the reorganization of 1952 and condemned as expressions of cultural imperialism. However, in China's opening up in the 1980s, Professor Zhang Kaiyuan, a leading historian, established a center to research their legacy and guided many scholars in related research.

In 2022 the 100th anniversary of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia was celebrated. Founded in 1922 to support universities in China, it had extended support to Christian higher education throughout Asia after 1952, then reconnected with China in the early 1980s. It is worth reflecting on lessons we can learn as Christian academics from the history of Christian higher education in China and Asia.

**Prof. Ruth Hayhoe** is a Professor at the University of Toronto. She served as First Secretary for Education, Science and Culture in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing (1989-1991), Visiting Professor at Nagoya University (1996) and Director of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, now the Education University of Hong Kong (1997-2002). Her recent books include *China Through the Lens of Comparative Education* (2015), *Canadian Universities in China's Transformation: An Untold Story* (2016) and *Religion and Education* (2018). Ruth received the Silver Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong SAR Government and the title of Commandeur dans l'ordre des Palmes Académiques from the Government of France in 2002. She has a PhD from University of London and also holds honorary doctorates from the Hong Kong Institute of Education (2002), the Open University of Hong Kong (2015) and Victoria University in Toronto (2019).

**Dr. Leping Mou** is a sessional lecturer and a research associate at the Center for the Study of Canadian and International Higher Education in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. Dr. Mou obtained his PhD in Higher Education and Comparative International Development Education from OISE at the University of Toronto. His doctoral research examines liberal arts education for whole person cultivation in Chinese contexts. Broadly, his research explores how higher education models in different social contexts contribute to students' capabilities development and future life flourishing. His research interests include liberal arts education/ general education, higher education teaching and learning, comparative international higher education; sociology of education; research methodology. Currently, he serves as the Co-Chair for the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE) 2023 Annual Conference.