

Curriculum Vitae

Robert A. Hunt **Director of Global Theological Education**

P.O. Box 750133
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275-0133
Email: roberth@smu.edu

Born December 15, 1955 in Dallas, Texas.

Academic Credentials:

Ph.D., University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 1994.

M.Th., Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology, 1982.

B.A. (honors), History, University of Texas, 1977.

Academic Experience:

2004 – Present: Director of Global Theological Education, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Lecturing in World Religions, Islam, Mission Studies, and Inter-religious Dialogue.

2004 – 2005: Visiting Professor in World Religions, Perkins School of Theology

1997- 2004: Adjunct Professor of World Religions and History/International Studies; Webster University, Vienna.

1993-1997: Lecturer in Islam, Asian Culture and Religions, and Practical Theology, Director of Continuing Education / Field Education: Trinity Theological College, Singapore.

1992-1993: Sabbatical Leave.

1990-1992: Adjunct Lecturer in Comparative Religions, Inti College, Subang Jaya, Malaysia.

1985-1992: Lecturer in Practical Theology and Comparative Religions, Director of Continuing Education: Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Other Professional Experience:

1997-2004: Pastor, English Speaking United Methodist Church of Vienna

1980-1984: Associate Pastor; Bethany United Methodist Church, Austin.

Current Research:

As Director of Global Theological Education I coordinate a program of inter-cultural immersion courses for Perkins Students. These courses are conducted in seminary and other Christian and non-Christian settings around the world.

I am currently researching how religious identity is constructed in religiously plural settings and issues related to inter-religious relations, as well as in methods of teaching inter-religious dialogue in a theological seminary setting.

Specifically I am part of a larger research project studying indigenous Christian movements in Southeast Asia sponsored by the Center for the Study of Christianity in Asia at Trinity Theological College, Singapore. I am editing a volume of biographies of Christian leaders and doing research on the influence of an Islamic environment on the development of indigenous Christianity in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Publications:

• Books

- *The Gospel among the Nations: A Documentary History of Inculturation*, (Orbis Books, Maryknoll, 2010.)
- *Muslim Citizens of the Globalized World*, (The Light and IID Press, Somerset, New Jersey, 2006) Robert Hunt and Alp Aslandogan, eds.
- *Muslim Faith and Values, What Every Christian Should Know*, (New York: GBGM Press, 2003)
- *Islam in Southeast Asia, A Study Guide for Christians* (Kuala Lumpur: GBGM Press/Methodist Church of Malaysia, 1999)
- *William Shellabear, A Biography* (Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press, 1995)
- *Christianity in Malaysia: a Denominational History*, Robert Hunt, Lee Kam Hing, John Roxborough, eds. (Petaling Jaya: Pelanduk Press, 1990)

• Contributions to Reference Works

- "The History of Christianity in Southeast Asia" *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, Blackwell Publishing (2008)
- "William Shellabear" in *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Blackwell Publishing (2008)
- "Bible Translation," in *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, Hans J. Hillerbrand, ed. (Routledge, 2003)
- "Modern Mission among Muslims," in *Christian Mission in the Third Millennium*, ed. Charles Cole, (New York: GBGM Press, 2003)
- "J.A.B. Cook," "Covenant of Omar," "James M. Thoburn," "Benjamin Keasberry," "Malacca," "Stamford Raffles," "Sino-Japanese War," "Umar I," "Umayyad Caliphate," in *Dictionary of Asian Christianity*, Scott Sunquist, John Chew, and David Wu, eds. (Chicago: Eerdmans, 2001)
- "Benjamin Peach Keasberry," "Thomas Beighton," *Dictionary of Evangelical Biography*, Donald Lewis, ed. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995)
- "Samuel Abraham," "Burr Baughman," "Thomas Beighton," "J.A.B. Cook," "Sophia Cooke," "Goh Hood Keng," "Benjamin Peach Keasberry," "Lucius Mamora (Simamora)," "William F. Oldham," "Hans Schärer," "William Shellabear," in *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*, Gerald Anderson, ed. (New York: Macmillan Library Reference, 1997)
- "Historical Overview of Christian Social Services in Malaysia," in *Trends and Challenges in Social Service Today*, (Kuala Lumpur: Council of Churches of Malaysia, 1989)
- "Historical Overview of Christian Responses to Social Problems in Malaysia," in *Essays in Honour of David Bohler*, (Kuala Lumpur: Graduate Christian Fellowship, 1988)

• Articles and Chapters

- "Can Real Muslims Engage in Inter-religious Dialogue? A Study of Malay-Muslim Identity in Contemporary Malaysia" *Muslim World*, Fall, 2009.
- "Teaching through Practice: Engaging Divinity Students in Interfaith Dialogue," in *Pedagogies for Interfaith Dialogue*, ed. David Roozen, Hartford Seminary, 2009.
- "Christian Identity in a Pluralistic World" *Missiology* – April, 2009
- "Soal yang Berganti-Ganti dalam Penerjemahan Kitab Suci ke dalam Bahasa Melayu pada Abad ke-19 dan 20," pp. 513-526, "William Shellabear dan Alkitab Terjemahannya," pp. 1057-1065 in Henri Chambert-Loir (ed.), Sadur: Sejarah Terjemahan di Indonesia dan Malaysia. Jakarta: KPG (Kepustakaan Populer

Gramedia), 2009, (“Changing Issues in the Translation of the Bible in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” and “William Shellabear and the Translation of the Bible into Malay” in *History of Translation in Indonesia and Malaysia*, ed. Henri Loir, Jakarta: KPG, 2009

- “Reforming American Views of Muslims,” in *World Christianity in Muslim Encounter*, ed. Stephen Goodwin, Continuum International, 2008
- “A Response to Ng Kam Weng on the prospects of Inter-Religious understanding in Malaysia,” *The Quest for Covenant Community and Pluralist Democracy in an Islamic Context*, ed. Mark Chan, Center for the Study of Christianity in Asia, Trinity Theological College, Singapore, 2008.
- “Islam in Austria,” *Muslim World*, Vol. 92, Numbers 1&2, 2002: 115-128.
- “The Legacy of William Shellabear,” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Vol. 26, No. 1, 2002: 28-31.
- „Islam und Christentum: Der Staat im Islam,“ *Verhandlungsbericht der 51. Tagung des Exekutivkomitees*, 2000: 67-72.
- Response to Gary Lease's "What Are the Humanities, and Why Do They Matter?" Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin, 28 no 1 F 1999, p 17-18.
- „Islam und Christentum: A Brief Guide to the Study of Islam: Anthropology and Soteriology,“ *Verhandlungsbericht der 50. Tagung des Exekutivkomitees*, 1999: 61-77.
- „Islam und Christentum: Revelation,“ *Verhandlungsbericht der 50. Tagung des Exekutivkomitees*, 1998: 66-79.
- “Christian Theological Reflection and Education in the Muslim Societies of Malaysia and Indonesia,” *Studies in World Christianity* (New College, Edinburgh), Vol. 3.2, 1997: 202 - 225.
- “Inter-religious Conflict and Compromise in Late 19th and Early 20th century Singapore,” *Sejarah* (University of Malaya), No. 4, 1996: 63 - 82.
- “Individual, Community, State and Perceptions of Human Rights and Religious Freedom,” *Trinity Theological College Journal*, Vol. 4, 1995: 15-30.
- “Basic Bibliography of Islam in Southeast Asia,” (with Olaf Schumann) *Trinity Theological College Journal*, Vol. 4, 1995: 59 – 66.
- “The Life of William Shellabear,” *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. LXVI, Part 2, 1993: 37 – 72.
- “Have you not seen a vain vision? The marginalization of the United Methodist Church in Malaysian Society,” *Asian Journal of Theology*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1991: 410 – 428.
- “William Shellabear and His Bible,” *Methodist History*, Vol. XXIX, Number 1, 1990: 14 - 20.
- “The History of the Translation of the Bible into Malay,” *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. LXII, Part 1, 1989: 35 - 56.

- **Reviews**

I have published numerous reviews in *Missiology*, *Muslim World*, and *Reviews in Religion and Theology*. I publish short reviews several times a year in the *Dallas Morning News*.

Past and Present Professional Projects and Engagements:

- Member of the Board of Scholars of the *Journal of Inter-religious Dialogue*.
- In the last three years I have spoken to several dozen different church and civic groups in Dallas and around the state of Texas about Islam and Muslim-Christian relations, usually in cooperation with leaders from the Muslim community. I have also hosted U.S. State Department visits of Muslim scholars to the SMU campus in the same period, orienting them to the teaching of Islam and Inter-Religious dialogue in a university setting. I have been interviewed for local and national television and radio, the *Footnote* program broadcast by Everest Productions, as well as for the documentary *American Ramadan* broadcast on PBS.
- Teaching outside the University
 - *Basics of Christian Missiology*, the *Future of Christian Mission* for a variety of VIM training sessions in the South Central and North Central Jurisdictions.
 - “Missions” for the United Methodist Course of Study – 2006 to Present
 - “Religious Pluralism” for the Perkins School of Youth Ministry – 2008 to Present
 - Perkins School of Theology Laity Week – 2006, 2007, 2009
- Participant and presenter for the “Toward a Global Family: A Buddhist Muslim Dialogue” consultation in New York, September 2-4, 2008.
- Participant/Speaker in the World Thanksgiving Assembly II, Dallas, Tx, July 21 – 23, 2008
- Participant in the “World Conference on Dialogue,” Madrid, July 2008.
- Member of the SMU Task Force on International Education, (2006 – 2007)
- Advisor to the “Extending the Convivencia: Engaging Fundamental Questions of Meaning and Value in the Global Suburb” project of the Collins County Jr. College, led by Dr. Tony Mansueto.
- Participant in the “Equipping Global Ministry: Wesleyan Studies Project,” Wesley Theological Seminary. (completed 2007)
- Participant in the Hartford School of Theology “Pedagogies for Interfaith Dialogue Project.” Led by Dr David Roozen, (Wabash Foundation Grant) (ongoing)
- Participant/Presenter in the *Inter-Religious Dialogue Conference*, (April, 2006) sponsored by the Methodist Church in Macedonia and the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation and the *World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations* (October, 2007) sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the government of Macedonia.
- Participant/Presenter in the *Beijing Symposium on Muslim Buddhist Dialogue* of the Religious Studies Department of Beijing University and Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society Museum of World Religions. (October 2007)
- Member of Texas Council of Churches planning committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue (ongoing)
- Advisor to the General Board of Global Ministry Regional Studies of Islam project (1995 – 2004)
- Coordinator of the European Region “Pastor-Theologian Program” of the Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton Seminary. (2001 – 2002)
- Testimony on Religious Discrimination in Western Europe for the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, given June 14th,

2000. I also met annually for consultations with both State Department and House of Representatives staff regarding religious freedom in Western Europe (1998 – 2003).

- Advisor on Islam and Inter-religious relations to the Theological Commission of the South-Central Europe Central Conference (1997 – 2004)
- Southeast Asian Coordinator for the Study of Christian Theological Education in Muslim Societies, Center for the Study of Christianity in the Non-western World, Edinburgh University (1997 – 2001) (a Pew Foundation funded project led by Dr. David Kerr)
- With Dr. David Wu and Dr. Hwa Yung I coordinated a series of studies and dialogue sessions for Christians and Muslims in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Yogyakarta, and Salatiga. (1995 to 1997)
- From 1989 to 1993 I served as on the editorial team of the current Malay Language translation of the Bible, sponsored by the Bible Society of Malaysia and led by Dr. David Soesilo.

Professional Associations:

- Association of Professors in Mission (Vice President, 2007 - 2008, President 2008 – 2009)
- American Academy of Religion
- Methodist Historical Society (U.S. and World)
- American Society of Missiology
- International Association of Mission Studies
- Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

Languages:

- **Malay/Indonesian, German, English,**

Community Service and other:

I am a past member of the Board of Governors of the American International School of Vienna. Presently I am a member of the Executive Board of the Fulton School, Rockwall, Texas.

I play French horn and jazz guitar in local bands and orchestras as opportunity allows. I enjoy mountaineering, cycling, and scuba diving as hobbies.

I have been married for 30 years to Lilian, Liong Huan Wong. We have two children, aged 26 and 23, living in Vienna and London respectively.