

LECTURE SERIES

JAN VAN BRAGT MEMORIAL LECTURE



Suemura Masayo and Tomoaki Yamada

Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture

On 18 February, the inaugural session of the Jan Van Bragt Memorial Lecture Series was held at Nanzan University's Reiners Library. Organized by the two current Jan Van Bragt Research Fellows, Suemura Masayo and Tomoaki Yamada, the event aimed to raise broader awareness of Jan Van Bragt's contributions to interreligious dialogue.

SINCE ITS founding fifty years ago, the staff at the NIRC have included two positions for early-career scholars of religion and philosophy. As members of the institute, these Junior Research Fellows have made significant contributions to the research activities of the NIRC and helped to build networks with scholars throughout Japan, around the globe, and across the generations. See the NIRC website for a list of past Junior Research Fellows (https://nirc.nanzan-u.ac.jp/_page/about).

Several years ago, the official title of the Junior Research Fellow was changed to Jan Van Bragt Fellow in honor of the late Jan Van Bragt (1928–2007) for his lasting impact on the NIRC. Born in Belgium, Van Bragt joined the clerical religious organization known as Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae, CICM) in 1946 and, following the completion of his doctorate at the Catholic University of Leuven, he came to Japan in 1961. After serving at a parish in Osaka and then a period of study at Kyoto University, Van Bragt became the second director of the newly established NIRC at Nanzan University, where he actively promoted dialogue between Eastern and Western spiritual traditions. In particular, he engaged with the Kyoto School's interpretations of Christianity and the understanding of the “self” in Jōdo Shinshū. He published broadly on topics related to interreligious dialogue and Japanese philosophy, including a translation of Nishitani Keiji's *Religion and Nothingness* (University of California Press, 1983), *A Soga Ryōjin Reader* (Chisokudo Publications, 2017), and a collection of his writings in *Interreligious Affinities: Encounters with the Kyoto*

School and the Religions of Japan (Chisokudo Publications, 2023), a Japanese version of which was edited by Kim Seung Chul and Terao Kasuyoshi under the title 『宗教間対話に導かれて—京都学派・仏教・キリスト教』 (Chisokudo, 2023).

The Jan Van Bragt Memorial Lecture Series was the idea of Suemura Masayo and Tomoaki Yamada, the Van Bragt Fellows during the 2024 academic year. The purpose of the lecture series is to celebrate the many contributions Van Bragt made to interreligious dialogue, the translation of Japanese philosophical works, and the study of Japanese religion. The inaugural lecture featured a talk by Terao Kazuyoshi of Sophia University followed by a response from James Heisig, Prof. Emeritus of the NIRC. Terao spoke on the topic of “Fr. Jan Van Bragt and the Pure Land Tradition: Beyond Dialogue.” In particular, he discussed the religious philosophy of Takeuchi Yoshinori—Van Bragt’s mentor and a Jōdo Shinshū priest—and similarities with Van Bragt’s own thought. He also addressed interreligious dialogue between Pure Land Buddhism and Christianity, focusing on Van Bragt’s engagement with Soga Ryōjin. Heisig’s comments, titled “Jan Van Bragt: The Man and His Thought,” offered a retrospective on the establishment of the NIRC, explored Van Bragt’s thought and scholarly contributions, and shared personal recollections of their collaborative translation of the works of the Japanese Kyoto School philosopher Nishitani Keiji.

The first of what will hopefully be many more to come, the inaugural Jan Van Bragt Memorial Lecture successfully brought together friends of the NIRC, both old and new, to honor the legacy of Van Bragt. His inimitable contributions to the international study of Japanese religion and philosophy, as well as his tireless promotion of multicultural exchange and understanding among scholars in Japan and abroad, made the NIRC into the renowned research institute it is today. In future lectures, the institute intends to highlight more details regarding the influence of Van Bragt’s work on interreligious dialogue, Japanese philosophy, and the study of religion in Japan, which together constitute the three pillars of research activities at the NIRC.



ヤン・ヴァン・ブラフト先生 記念レクチャー・シリーズ 第1回

日時: 2025年 2月18日
15時30分-17時30分

場所: ライネルス中央図書館
NANTO ROOM

対面: どなたでも参加歓迎
オンライン: 要参加申し込み
2月16日まで

講演: 寺尾寿芳 (上智大学)

「ヤン・ヴァン・ブラフト師と浄土教——対話を越えて——」

コメント: ジェームズ・ハイジック (南山大学)

「ヤン・ヴァン・ブラフト——その人と思想」

司会: 山田智正 (南山宗教文化研究所)

Nanzan
Institute for
Religion and Culture
南山宗教文化研究所



オンライン参加申し込み

URL : <https://forms.gle/js7GS5VbxMFmWVHNA>

QRコード



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