

# Faculty Report 2020/2021

*Hans A. Harmakaputra*

## 1. Teaching and Education

As a visiting faculty and a post-doctoral scholar, I sincerely appreciated the teaching arrangement this academic year. I was given a semester off from teaching to focus on my research. Here is the course I teach in the Winter/Spring semester: DI-501 Introduction to Islam for Non-Muslims (Online/Asynchronous). Related to teaching duties, I wrote course descriptions of several courses related to Christian theology and Christian-Muslim studies for the next three academic years as part of the newly designed academic programs. I have two advisees (now only one) in terms of student supervision and served in one committee for thesis examination.

Regarding my professional education as a teacher, I attended two Online Learning Consortium's workshops: "New to Online Essentials Part II: Converting Your Course" (September 14-20) and "New to Online Essentials Part III: Course Design Basics (September 21-27). Plus, I attended a workshop on utilizing VoiceThread (January 26). These workshops are essential in developing skills related to online teaching. Furthermore, I also participated in the series of workshops on team-teaching organized by Hartsem and Wabash Center as a preparation for teaching a team-teaching course in the next academic year. Besides, I did self-study on managing Zoom, design flyers and posters, video clips, and other skills related to technological needs.

## 2. Research

I completed a book manuscript titled "The Community of God's Friends: A Muslim-Christian Comparative Theology of Saints." It is currently under review for publication in Brill's Currents of Encounter series. Another research is a paper co-authored with Luthfi Rahman, a Hartsem alum who is now a faculty at *Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo*, Semarang, titled "From Toleration to Solidarity: Muslim-Christian Relations in Indonesia during the Pandemic COVID-19." The focus of this research is the ways in which Covid-19 impacts Muslim-Christian relations in Indonesia through case studies in five cities. The paper will be presented at the 2021 Luce-Hartford Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations in June 2021 and published in *The Muslim World's* issue in the Fall. Last, I also submit a book chapter titled "Saints as Friends of God and Humans: A Comparative Theology Reconfiguration of Sainthood" to be considered for publication in an edited volume published by Fortress.

## 3. Publications

### A. Journal Articles

- "Fratelli Tutti and Interreligious Friendship: An Indonesian Christian Reflection." *The Journal of Social Encounters*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (2021): 14-18.
- "Say 'No' to Christmas? An Analysis of the Islamic Fatwa on the Prohibition of Wearing Non-Muslim's Attributes in Indonesia." *The Muslim World*, Vol. 110, No. 4 (2020): 502-517.
- "Jesus, the Last Scapegoat: A Chinese-Indonesian Christian Theological Imagination for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation." *The Journal of Social Encounters*, Volume 4, No. 2 (2020): 50-60.

## B. Edited Books

- Hans Harmakaputra, Kartika Diredja, and Michael Alexander (editors). *Meretas Polarisasi Pendidikan Kristiani: Isu-isu Kontemporer terkait Pendidikan Kristen di Gereja dan Masyarakat*. Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2021. [in Bahasa Indonesia]
- Abraham S. Wilar, Agustina R. Samosir, Hans A. Harmakaputra (editors). *Ziarah Iman, Ziarah Politik: Sketsa-sketsa Teologi Politik Indonesia Kontemporer*. Jakarta: Grafika Kreasindo, 2020. [in Bahasa Indonesia]

## C. Book Chapter

- “Resistensi Kudus: Orang-Orang Kudus dan Teologi Politik dari Margin.” Dalam *Ziarah Iman, Ziarah Politik: Sketsa-Sketsa Teologi Politik Indonesia Kekinian*. Abraham S. Wilar, Agustina R. Samosir, dan Hans A. Harmakaputra (editors). Jakarta: Grafika Kreasindo, 2020. [in Bahasa Indonesia]

## D. Book Review

- “Bernard Adeney-Risakotta, Living in a Sacred Cosmos: Indonesia and the Future of Islam,” *The Muslim World* Volume 110, Issue 4 (2020): 628-630.

## *Forthcoming*

- “Contesting the Meaning of the Sheep and the Goats: Variations of Contemporary Indonesian Christians’ Readings of Matthew 25: 31-46.” In *Reading the Gospels in the Context of Islam*. Ida Glaser, Steven Gertz, and Shirin Shafaie (editors). Abingdon: Routledge, 2021.
- “Comparative Theology Insights for the Ethics of Experiential Learning in Classroom Setting.” In *Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*. Lucinda Allen Mosher (editor). Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2021.

## 4. Service

### A. Administrative Duties

- **MacDonald Center**: updating the website, monthly meetings, and spoke in an event on the role of Mary from Christian and Muslim perspective.
- **Admission**: admission committee, admission team (focusing on assisting the MAP application), created promotional flyers, and provided consultation to potential students from Indonesia. Related to my role in the admission team, I helped with correspondence and data analysis. There are a total of 123 potential international applicants from 34 countries and 45 who completed their applications. Regarding the domestic applicants, we had 23 potential applicants from 13 States and 6 who completed their applications.
- **Community prayer**: I was assigned to organize the community prayer that began in the Fall semester. I managed 15 sessions in the Fall and 18 sessions in the Winter/Spring semester. All sessions (except one) are available on Hartsem’s YouTube channel. I used Hartsem’s rich network of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners to design diverse themes and invite various speakers. The community prayer involved more than 26 speakers in the Fall and 32 speakers in the Winter/Spring semester. The sessions are well attended, with an average of 30 to

40 attendance per week. In every session, I created a promotional flyer, helped speaker(s) develop slides and other technical matters, and sent a reminder twice a week to the mailing list.

- ***Holy Grounds Coffee Hour***: I co-host the session with Aida Mansoor every week following the community prayer.
- ***Collegial sharing***: After Marcia no longer work at the seminary, I took over the duties related to the monthly collegial sharing: remind the speaker, circulate reading material, host the session, and invite people to attend.
- ***The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Preaching Festival***: create a flyer, host the session, and spread it to students.

## **B. Academic and Professional Organizations**

- ***Asosiasi Teolog Indonesia (Indonesian Theologian Association; ATI)***: As a member of the executive board of ATI, I co-organized the 7<sup>th</sup> (Virtual) Annual Meeting on February 6, 13, 20, 27 on the theme “Indonesian Churches Respond to COVID-19” and an event commemorating one decade of ATI on December 5.
- ***Editorial Boards and Reviewers***:
  - Editor-in-Chief of *Indonesian Journal of Theology*: published a special and a regular issue in 2020, organized a writing competition for Indonesian junior scholars on Christian spirituality and prepared a special issue in “Christianities in Southeast Asia” featuring articles on five countries and an introductory chapter from Prof. Peter C. Phan (Georgetown University) for July 2021 edition.
  - Member of Editorial Board at *Theologia in Loco* (Jakarta School of Theology and Philosophy), *Wawasan* (Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati), *Teosofia* (Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo),
  - Review manuscripts for Journal of Interreligious Studies (JIRS), The Muslim World, BIA’ (STAKN Toraja) and Mitra Sriwijaya (Sriwijaya Theological Seminary),
- ***Workshops***:
  - Writing an academic article for a Scopus-indexed journal for grad students and faculty members of Jakarta School of Theology and Philosophy (April 5)
  - Structuring an academic article for faculty members of several seminaries in Indonesia (September 3)
  - Publishing an academic article for undergrad and grad students of Jakarta School of Theology and Philosophy (July 16)
- ***Presentations***
  - Islam and Diversity in Contemporary Indonesia: Belief, Gender, and Politics, University of California, Riverside & *Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia*. “Say ‘No’ to Christmas? An Analysis of the Islamic Fatwa on the Prohibition against Wearing Non-Muslim Symbols in Indonesia.” (March 18)

- The Role of Mary in Christianity and Islam, MacDonald Center for Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, “The Role of Mary in Christianity and Islam: A Protestant View.” (Dec 15)
- American Academy of Religion, Religious Reflections on Friendship Seminar, Boston, MA. “Friends of God, Friends of Humans: A Muslim-Christian Comparative Theology Reflection on Sainthood and Friendship.” (December 10)
- Public lecture at *Universitas Kristen Indonesia Toraja*. “Mapping Contemporary Christian Theology of Religions.” (November 14)
- Reading the Gospels in the Context of Islam, The Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford, UK, “Contesting the meaning of the sheep and the goats: Variations of contemporary Indonesian Christians’ readings of Matthew 25: 31-46.” (September 8)
- **Guest teaching in a class:** Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth Seminary, Faridabad, India (September 19), Boston College (September 29), Jakarta School of Theology and Philosophy, Indonesia (Research Method on October 11 and Ecclesiology in Post-Pandemic Context on March 2) and Baylor University (March 25).

### **C. Faith Communities and the Public**

- Churches: on the topic of racism with the youth group of the synod of the Batak Karo Protestant Church (GBKP) (July 4), Jesus in Islam for congregation member of Indonesian Christian Church (GKI) Sudirman, Bandung (November 13), and devotional pieces for Jakarta School of Theology and Philosophy and GBKP.
- Various online lectures and panel (most sessions are available on YouTube)

### **Covid-19 and Strategic Plan**

I joined Hartsem during the pandemic, so the reality significantly shaped my schedule and plans. Most of my academic and public engagements happened virtually. Although I sorely missed human contact and connection, the good side is that I can engage people in different parts of the country and the world quite easily. Such engagement is essential to promote Hartford Seminary nationally and internationally as a leader of interreligious education and research and to foster global and community partnership. I also direct my research toward interreligious friendship as a way to support seminary’s strategic plan on interreligious peace studies.

As an educator, the pandemic also pushed me to develop online teaching and hone technological skills. I found out that teaching an asynchronous course requires two or even three times more effort and preparation than a regular course. Yet, I feel the level of engagement is satisfactory.

Organizing virtual community prayer is rewarding, not only professionally but also spiritually. I feel nourished by the considerable knowledge and wisdom of the speakers. It made me revisit my initial thought on the efficacy of online prayer and worship. Given that a good portion of the attendees are non-students, I am optimistic that it is also a form of executive and professional education that is done through connecting spirituality and human condition.