**Impacts of religious belief on scholarship**

John Choi (Handong Global Univ.)

1. **A brief introduction of myself.**

Academic Experience

1. Seoul National University (B.A. 1980-1983): major – social welfare, minor-sociology
2. Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, U.S.A (M.Div. 1986-1989)
3. Free University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (Drs. in reformational philosophy, 1989-1993)
4. Potchefstroom University for higher Christian education, South Africa (Ph.D. 2000)
5. Former senior pastor of Hanbit Community Church in Cologne, Germany (1999-2006) and Korean Church of Brussels in Belgium (2006-2011).
6. Former professor at KUIS (Korea University of International Studies in Seoul, Korea: 2008-2010)
7. Present: Professor of Handong Global Univ. ([www.handong.edu](http://www.handong.edu) since 2011) and visiting prof. at VIEW (Vancouver Institute for Evangelical Worldview in Canada, [www.view.edu](http://www.view.edu)) & ETF (Evangelische Theologische Faculteit in Belgium, [www.etf.edu](http://www.etf.edu)). Director of Handong Institute for Learning & Faith (academia.handong.edu)

Publications

1. *Dialogue and Antithesis: A Philosophical Study on the Significance of Herman Dooyeweerd's Transcendental Critique*Amsterdam. Ph.D Dissertation. Available at: [http://www.dooy.info/ papers/choi/index.html](http://www.dooy.info/%20papers/choi/index.html) Republished by Hermit Kingdom Press on June 1, 2006.
2. *Vision for Unity*(Seoul: IVP, 2006 Korean)
3. *Homo Respondens*(Seoul: SFC, 2008 Korean)
4. *Worldview is life*(Seoul: CUP, 2008, Korean)
5. *Deo Volente* (Seoul: Fresh Daily Manna, 2011, Korean)
6. Translation of Robert A. Harris, *The Integration of Faith and Learning* (Eugene: Cascade, 2004) into Korean (Seoul: Jeyoung, 2013)
7. *Be a channel of blessing!* (Seoul: Fresh Daily Manna, 2013, Korean)

Articles:

1. “A Christian Reflection on Culture”, *Ministry & Theology*, Dec. 1993 (Korean)
2. “Herman Dooyeweerd”, *Philosophers who loved God* (Seoul: IVP, 2005), pp. 37-66 (Korean)
3. “Life & Thought of D.H.Th. Vollenhoven”, *Christian Philosophy* (in Korea), 2008, Nr. 6. (Korean)
4. “Abraham Kuyper’s view of church”, *Faith and Scholarship*, 2012. (Korean)
5. **The ministry of HILF (Handong Institute for Learning & Faith)**

Since March 2012, I have been serving as the director of this institute which tries to integrate academic learning and Christian faith. Major activities are as following:

1. Reading Session: each Thursday afternoon, several professors are gathered together to discuss about a book which is chosen for that semester.
2. Colloquium: around 5 times per semester colloquium is held by the institute. Covered subjects have been: economy & faith, ethics & faith, history & faith, politics & faith, etc. Most of them are video recorded and uploaded at the website so that those who could not participate might be able to watch later.
3. Special Lecture: held occasionally, for instance, when we receive guests from other universities.
4. **My course: Scholarship & Faith**

This course (3 credits in Korean/English) is offered every semester for all students who want to know how they can integrate their major with Christian faith. As a main text, I use Robert Harris’s book mentioned above. In the beginning I give a lecture on what scholarship and faith are respectively and why both have to be integrated from the Christian worldview. After that I give a lecture on Abraham Kuyper, who gave a lecture on the relationship between Calvinism and science, and the website [www.allofliferedeemed.co.uk](http://www.allofliferedeemed.co.uk) as a good example. Furthermore, I give a brief introduction of H. Dooyeweerd’s thought which tried to reveal the religious root of scientific/theoretical thought. With this lecture, students are asked to form a group (3-4 people) with the same or similar major and to present how they can integrate their majors with Christian faith.

1. **My translation of the book (R. Harris)**

This was my first project at HILF as the director. Several TAs have helped me with draft translation and I reviewed it all. Finally, it was published in Feb. of this year and began to be used as a textbook of my course. Several other Christian professors have purchased this book at other conferences in Korea. I am going to translate other books in this area in the future.

1. **The syllabus and article that I am developing**

Furthermore, I am now developing a syllabus for the course mentioned at nr. 3. I have already presented an article as a proceeding at one conference in Korea last year. It is written in Korean with the title, “Science & Theology: conflict or integration?” Here I have tried to present four models/theories on the relationship between the two. Now, I am busy with revising and improving this article as a part of my syllabus. This workshop, therefore, is very helpful to me to develop my article and syllabus.

1. **International cooperation**

Since l have started to work as the director of HILF, I have made a research to know how I can make an international cooperation. In Korea, HILF works together with Christian Worldview Studies Association Korea (www.worldview.or.kr). In England, I have found out WYSOCS (West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies: wysocs.org.uk), in Holland, Forum C (forumc.nl), in America, CCCS (Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, www.calvin.edu/admin/cccs), in Canada, the Pascal Center (pascalcentre.org) and in Germany, Das Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft (www.iguw.de). I have been to CCCS, the Pascal Center last summer. Now I am visiting England and in the winter vacation, I am going to visit Forum C and Das Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft to see how we can work together.