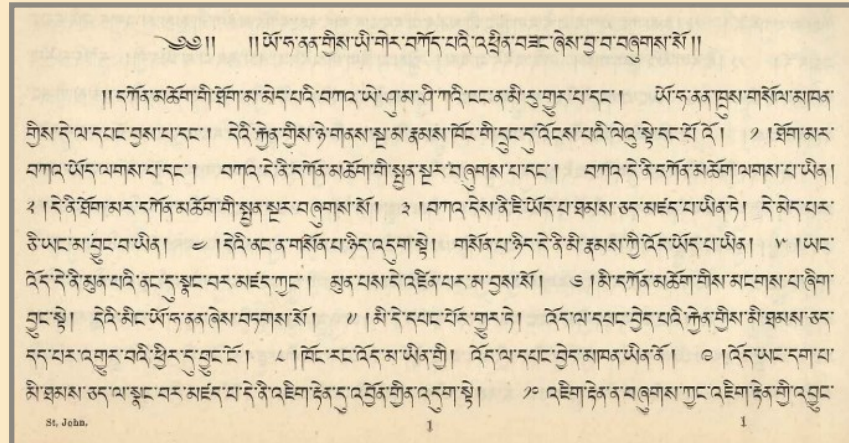


# Translating the Word into Tibetan

*Christian missionary engagement in Tibet since the 18th century*

Translation has been central to the history of Christianity since the beginning. Jesus spoke in Aramaic but the New Testament is written in Greek. The US-based scholar Lamin Sanneh (1942-2019) went so far as to say that “Translation is the original language of religion in Christianity”. This presentation will show how this theme plays out in the history of Christian engagement with Tibet and the Tibetan border areas.

Roman Catholic missionaries in Lhasa were responsible for translating the first Bible extracts in the 18th century. However, a complete Tibetan Bible was not published until 1948 and was the work of German and Ladakhi scholars from the Moravian church. The presentation will cross-refer to the history of Buddhist translations in Tibet, explore the inevitable challenges of terminology, and discuss Buddhist receptions to the Christian Bible.



*John Bray is an independent scholar based in Singapore. Over the past 30 years, he has published widely on Christian missionary engagement with Tibet and the Tibetan border areas, mainly in specialist journals. He has a parallel career as a business risk consultant.*

**2 May 2024**  
Thursday - 9:30  
NUS CAMPUS  
AS8 07-60



Faculty of Arts  
& Social Sciences