

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## The Pan Asian Heritage of St. Francis Xavier

Between Memory &  
Contemporary Appropriations

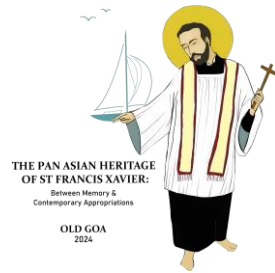


---

Goa (India), 12-15 Dec. 24

[www.isac-research.org/francixavier2024](http://www.isac-research.org/francixavier2024)





Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552) extensively traveled across Asia to preach, provide pastoral support to Europeans, and bring Christian salvation to indigenous peoples. His journey has brought many people and institutions to project in him a number of narratives and ideals. Francis Xavier can stand as a symbol of missionary zeal, an embodiment of what a Jesuit represents, a man of dialogue between cultures, and a Western colonizer.

This conference explores the ways in which Asian peoples and institutions share stories about Francis Xavier, the narratives they build, and the type of devotional practices, cross regional pilgrimages, and secular museums that they establish in relation to him today.

By paying attention to the range of ideas and values behind these memorializing efforts, this conference aims at discussing the theological, social, and political significance of Francis Xavier in 21st century Asia.

More information about the conference: <https://www.isac-research.org/francisxavier2024>

## DAY 1 – Thursday – December 12

From 14:00, arrival of guests at the St. Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre - venue of the conference.

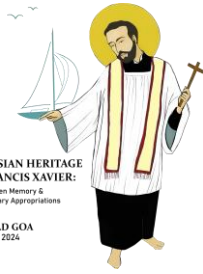
### 16:30 – 19:00: Inaugural Session

Presided by **Cardinal Filipe Neri**, Archbishop of Goa

Opening Remarks

**Michel Chambon**: *Memory and Mimesis in Asian Catholicism*.

### 19:00: Cultural Program & Dinner



**DAY 2 – Friday – December 13**

8:00 Registration

8:45 Opening Remarks and Greetings

**9:00 – 10:15 Keynote Speech** by **Pamila Gupta**:

*Navigating Space, Time, and Meaning with Francis Xavier.*

10:15 Break

**10:30 – 12:15 Session 1: Rethinking Pan-Asian Circulations and Connections**

- **Aristotle Dy**: *Engaging China through the Lens of Francis Xavier, A Missionary Legacy for the 21st Century.*
- **Steven S. George**: *Trans-Oceanic Journeys and Syncretic Identities: Reinterpreting St. Francis Xavier's Legacy in Asia.*
- **Bernardo E Brown**: *Malacca, Kagoshima and the Transoceanic links of Catholicism since the 16th Century: The story of St Francis Xavier and Yajiro. (co-author of the research: Shanthini Pillai)*

Respondent: **Bubbles Asor.**

12:15 Lunch

**14:00 – 16:30 Session 2: Localizing Francis Xavier in Contemporary Asia**

- **J. M. John Marshal**: *"Goencho Saib" and "Periya Padre": Political, Ecclesiastical legitimacy, & Survival.*
- **Paul Dass**: *St. Francis Xavier in Melaka: A Contemporary Reappropriation.*
- **Jozef Richard Raco**: *The Enduring Legacy of St. Francis Xavier: A Tale of Compassion, Miracles, and Cultural Reference in Ambon, Indonesia.*
- **M. David Stanly Kumar**: *Jesus' Mission Methods and the Mission Methods of St Francis Xavier at Cape Comorin and Goa - Drawing Lessons for Mission Today.*

Respondent: **James Ponniah.**

16:30 Break

**16:45 – 18:30: Session 6: Goans and their Saint: Preserving Goencho Sahib**

- **Victor Ferrao**: *Exploring the Reverberation of Politics in 'Goycho Saib'.*
- **Vishvesh Prabhakar Kandolkar**: *Itinerant Saint: The Architecture of Golden Goa and the 1952 Exposition of St. Francis Xavier's Relics.*
- **R. Benedito Ferrão**: *Saving Goa's Bom Jesus in Vishvesh Prabhakar Kandolkar's This is Not the Basilica!*

Respondent: **Pamila Gupta.**

**19:00 Dinner** followed by free evening in Goa



**DAY 3 – Saturday – December 14**

8:55 Greetings

**9:00 – 10:45: Session 4: Institutionalizing Xavier’s Legacy**

- **Paulin Baitarwa:** *Xaverian Missions in Asia: Xavier’s Living Legacy.*
- **Bryan Goh:** *The Institutionalization of Francis Xavier in Singapore.*
- **Miki Hayashi-Suzuki:** *Fr. Pedro Arrupe saw St. Francis Xavier in Yamaguchi.*
- **Leonard Yeo:** *Living Out the Missionary Spirit of Saint Francis Xavier: A Case Study of Xavier School (San Juan, Manila) and the Jesuits in Manila.*

Respondent: **Bernardo Brown.**

10:45 Break

**11:00-12:45 Session 5: Francis Xavier and Asian Material Culture**

- **Ananya Jahanara Kabir:** *Music Videos for Goencho Saib: Popular devotional songs for St Francis Xavier from Goa.*
- **Neha Khetrpal:** *Heritage that Divides and Binds: Reflections from Artworks of Francis Xavier.*
- **TBD**

Respondent: **Michel Chambon.**

12:45 Lunch

**14:00: Concluding Session**

- **Bubbles Asor:** *Sociology of religion in the Age of Global Asia*
- **James Ponniah:** *Indian Christianity, Francis Xavier, and Asian Catholic Studies*

**15:00 Group Visit to St Francis Xavier’s Relics.**

**DAY 4 – Sunday – December 15**

Free Morning & Mass

Departure of guests and speakers.



THE PAN ASIAN HERITAGE  
OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER:  
Between Memory &  
Contemporary Appropriations  
OLD GOA  
2024

CO-ORGANIZERS

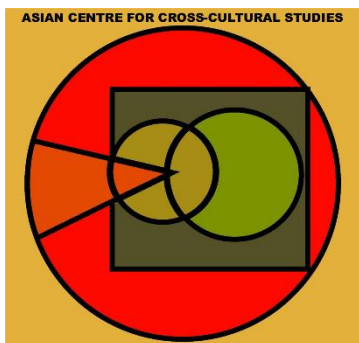
**St Xavier's College (India)**  
**Rosary College of Commerce & Arts (affiliated to Goa University, India)**  
**Archdiocese of Goa and Daman (India)**  
**Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (hosted by the Asia Research Institute, Singapore)**



**Archdiocese of Goa  
and Daman**

SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE

**Asian Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies (Chennai, India)**  
**Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific**  
**Saint Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre (India)**  
**Twenty-Six Martyrs Museum (Japan)**  
**Universitas Katolik De La Salle Manado (Indonesia)**  
**University of Saint Joseph, Macao (China)**



**St. Joseph Vaz  
Spiritual Renewal Centre Goa**



**聖若瑟大學  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SAINT JOSEPH  
MACAO**