

For Immediate Release: Date April 26, 2023

CHINA UNBOUND AUTHOR & JOURNALIST CONFIRMED AS 2023 CHANCELLOR'S DINNER KEYNOTE

VANCOUVER, BC. April 26, 2023. Author and international journalist, Joanna Chiu will be the keynote speaker at the annual VST Chancellor's Dinner on September 28, 2023.

Joanna Chiu, award-winning journalist for the **Toronto Star** and author of *China Unbound*, will speak about the current state of the church and religious freedoms in China. She has reported on China for over a decade as a foreign correspondent for outlets including *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *AFP* and *BBC World*. Her work has also appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, *Al Jazeera*, *CBC* and *NPR*.



Photo by Jennifer Osborne

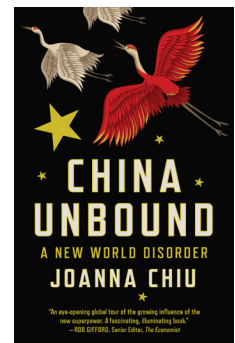
Chiu is an internationally recognized authority on China. She is currently a senior reporter based in Vancouver for the *Toronto Star*, covering international and national issues. For seven years she was based in China as a foreign correspondent, reporting for top news agencies such as *Agence France Presse (AFP)* and *Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA)*, and in Hong Kong, she reported for the *South China Morning Post*, *The Economic*, and *Associated Press (AP)*.

China Unbound examines Beijing's foreign influence tactics and highlights how Western democracies have been complicit in China's global human rights abuses. Chiu is the winner of the Writers' Trust Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing and the Kathy Gannon Legacy Award for Excellence in International Reporting.

She is the founder and chair of **NüVoices** editorial collective, which celebrates the creative and academic work of women working on the subject of China.

About China Unbound

As the world's second-largest economy, China is extending its influence across the globe with the complicity of democratic nations. Joanna Chiu has spent a decade tracking China's propulsive rise, from the political aspects of the multi-billion-dollar "New Silk Road" global investment project to a growing sway on foreign countries and multilateral institutions through "United Front" efforts. Chiu offers readers background on the protests in Hong Kong, underground churches in Beijing, and exile Uyghur communities in Turkey, and exposes Beijing's high-tech surveillance and aggressive measures that result in human rights violations against those who challenge its power. The new world disorder documented in *China Unbound* lays out the disturbing implications for global stability, prosperity, and civil rights everywhere.



About The VST Chancellor's Dinner

The 2023 VST Chancellor's Dinner will be held on Thursday, September 28 at the UBC Golf and Country Club. This event provides support to VST students and the Indigenous Studies Program at VST. This year's Chancellor's Dinner will also signal the official launch of a strategic initiative to

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better ensure students can access one of the most innovative and relevant forms of theological education offered through VST. There has never been a time more important than now for VST to produce “church ready” leaders.

Please contact VST for tickets. Tickets are \$200 per person or \$2,000 for tables of ten. A portion of this fee is eligible for a charitable receipt. Contact 604.822.6315 or jvanderpol@vst.edu.

About VST

VST's core mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. VST is a leading theological school, viewed as a change agent and innovator for the church.

VST is an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia ranked in the top 100 schools globally and in the top 10 of most improved theological schools. VST has been recognized by *In Trust Magazine* for its realizing transformational change as it renews theological education. A recipient of a prestigious Pathways for Tomorrow grant from the Lilly Endowment, VST is redefining the critical role of theological field education in preparing clergy. VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and in North America by ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

The Vancouver School of Theology celebrates its foundational relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and United Church of Canada. VST also welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions, and Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Studies Program at VST is central to the school's identity and commitments.

The Vancouver School of Theology recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021. VST, through its predecessor schools, has been teaching theology in Vancouver since 1893.

The Vancouver School of Theology acknowledges that the land on which they are located is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the *xwməθkwəyəm* (Musqueam) People.

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