東西方的「儀式」與「宇宙觀」:跨文化交流與宇宙觀的詮釋

Rites and Cosmology, East and West: A Study of Cross-Cultural Transmissions and Interpretations of Religious and Cosmological Traditions

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Project summary

In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the interpretation of Confucian sacrifices and ancestor worship ceremonies provided by the Jesuits who did not consider these activities as religious activities caused a series of theological debates and political disputes concerning the nature of these rituals. The Jesuits attempted to prove that Chinese worships of ancestors were lay, and not religious, ceremonies. The newly converted Chinese scholars actively participated in this discussion focused on interpretation of the term of "Heaven" (天).

Recently the relationships between religion, science, technology, and medicine drew attention of numerous scholars, yet there are still issues worthy of discussion. How did the Western missionaries identify and reinterpret the nature of traditional rites? Could those rites be considered "religious"? Chinese religious teachings contained elaborated cosmological and cosmographic concepts. The introduction of Catholic religion into China coincided with the development of Western astronomy and cartography, and numerous Jesuit missionaries had outstanding scientific expertise. The project was focused on the interaction between Jesuits and their Chinese counterparts in the fields of cosmology, cartography and cosmography.

Keywords: China, Jesuits, religion, rituals, cosmology, cosmography, cartography

Methodology:

Through translation and analysis of maps and historical documents this project explored cosmological concepts of various traditions. After having conducted a comparative investigation of Oriental and European concepts of space and of respective world maps, we extended the period of investigation and expanded the geographical scope of the project.

Results:

Under the direction of the two authors of this project, the graduate students explored the interplay between religious, cosmological, and cosmographical (cartographical) concepts in East and West. Since this project was a cross-domain and cross-cultural study, it contributed to the development of the research axis of "history of religion, science, technology, and medicine" of the Institute of History. Members of the research team participated in international conferences and organized two international workshops in Taiwan, published or prepared for publication academic papers. Yang Wei-Ting, currently works in the Max Planck Institute (Berlin, Germany) on her PhD thesis on Buddhist cosmology. The project thus helped create a platform for academic exchanges to form a cross-school and cross-disciplinary research community, to achieve the goal of cultivating outstanding history research talents in the future.

International Conferences

Panel "Rites and Cosmology, East and West: A Study of Cross-Cultural Transmissions and Interpretations of Religious and Cosmological Traditions" at the International Convention of Asia scholars "Asia and Europe, Asia in Europe", Leiden, Netherlands, July 15-19, 2019. Papers: MAU Chuan-hui 毛傳慧, "'Rites' or 'religion'? Chinese traditional ceremonies regarded by European missionaries and by Chinese people"; Lin Yu-chen 林育臣, "Who were Chinese 'Christians' in Qing China? A study on the consideration of European missionaries, Qing government and Chinese converts"; YANG Wei-ting 楊偉婷, "A Case of Transmission of Cartographic Knowledge: Japanese World Maps of late 18th and early 19th Century".

Alexei Volkov, "On the origin of two maps of Vietnam by Alexandre de Rhodes" (poster), International Conference on the History of Cartography, Amsterdam, July 12-20, 2019.



Lin Yu-chen, Mau Chuan-hui, Alexei Volkov and Yang Wei-Ting (from left to right) at the International Convention of Asia scholars "Asia and Europe, Asia in Europe", Leiden, Netherlands, July 15-19, 2019.



Participants of the workshop organized by Mau Chuan-hui and Alexei Volkov, *Religion and Cosmology in Pre-modern China: Missionaries and Transmission of Scientific Information*, National Tsing-Hua University, Hsinchu, 6-7 December 2019.





International Workshop "Science, cosmology, and religion in pre-modern East Asia" organized by Mau Chuan-hui and A. Volkov and held at the National Tsing-Hua University on November 20-21, 2020.

Journal papers

Mau Chuan-hui, "Réflexions sur le rôle des missionnaires et des communautés catholiques dans les échanges techniques et commerciaux franco-chinois (2^e moitié du XIX^e s.)", *Artefact* (forthcoming).

Jiang Zhaozhong 姜照中,"'Mulan shi' zhong de beizu fengsu: cenglei zaocheng de yuefu mingpian 〈木蘭詩〉中的北族風俗: 層累造成的樂府名篇", Yuefu xue 樂府學, 2(2020), 259-273.

Jiang Zhaozhong, "Guozhuang" kao: jianshuo qi yu Duowen tianzi chongbai de guanxi 「鍋莊」考:兼說其與多聞天子崇拜的關係", Zangxue xuekan (forthcoming).