

THE 2018 CESNUR CONFERENCE

Co-organized by:

Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR)

Weixin College, Nantou City, Taiwan

Taiwan WeiXin World Peace Promotion Association, Nantou City, Taiwan

International Society for the Study of New Religions (ISSNR)

TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS: EAST ASIA, THE WEST, AND BEYOND

Weixin College
Nantou City, Taiwan
17-23 June 2018

Sunday June 17, 2018

Participants arrive at Taipei airport. Transportation services from Taipei's Taoyuan International Airport to Hotel Formosa, Caotun Township, Nantou City, will be available at 12:00 and 18:00 on 17 June.

Monday June 18, 2018

Pre-Conference Field Trip

Buses will leave Hotel Formosa at 8.30 a.m.

Participants will attend a significant religious festival in Taiwan, centered on the unveiling of a 25-meters high golden statue of Guiguzi (the largest statue of Guiguzi in the world) by the Taiwanese new religion Weixin Shengjiao, the parent organization of Weixin College. Guiguzi was a Chinese sage who, according to the tradition, during the Warring States period in China operated the first school of military strategy and diplomacy in world history. As happened for other figures in Chinese history, he was divinized after his death and is regarded by Weixin Shengjiao as the embodiment of the Bodhisattva Wang Chan Lao Zu. The cult of Guiguzi is largely spread in both Mainland China and Taiwan, and it is expected that the unveiling of the statue on June 18 will be attended by thousands of members of many different religions. These different religions will participate, some presenting their own rituals, in what promises to be a truly spectacular event. The day will conclude at Weixin College (B1, Building C) with a welcome banquet hosted by Grand Master Hun Yuan, founder and leader of Weixin Shengjiao. Participants will then be taken back to Hotel Formosa by bus. The fees of local transportation, meal, and accommodation on June 18th will be sponsored by Weixin Shengjiao.



Tuesday June 19, 2018

8.30 a.m. - Buses will leave Hotel Formosa for Weixin College

9 a.m. - 9.10 a.m. / Group Photo

9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. / Session 1 – Opening Plenary Session Hall E301

Tradition and Innovation: Success Stories from East Asia

Presiding and Introducing: Massimo INTROVIGNE and Fiona Hsin-Fang Chang

Panelists: President Grand Master HUN YUAN (Founder of Weixin Shengjiao)

President YUN Eun-Do (Institutional Head of Daesoon Jinrihoe)

Cardinal Thuong TAM Thanh (Chairman, Cao Dai Sacerdotal Council)

11 a.m. - 11.20 a.m. / Coffee Break

11.20 a.m. - 1.15 p.m. / Session 2 – Plenary Hall E301

I Ching, Feng Shui, Myth, and Modern Society: Weixin Shengjiao in Taiwan

Chair: Fiona Hsin-Fang Chang

Introducing Weixin Shengjiao to Those Who Do Not Know It
Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR)

The Transition of Religious Authority in the Contemporary New Religions of Taiwan: Weixin Shengjiao as a Major Example
TSAI Yuan-Lin (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)

The Theory and Practice of Fengshui in a Contemporary Taiwanese New Religion
Benjamin PENNY (Australian National University, Canberra)

The Rehabilitation of Chiyou: Grand Master Hun Yan Chanshi's Wish for Peace by Building the Three Ancestors Halls
LEE Fong-Mao (Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Taiwan)

1.25 p.m. - 2.45 p.m. / Business Lunch

3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. / Session 3 Room B301**Vietnamese Developments**

Chair: Jason GREENBERGER

Religious Conversion of Vietnamese Originating from China in the South of Vietnam

TAM Truong Phan Chau (University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City)

The Study of New Religion in Vietnam and East Asian Countries - Theoretical Issues

LINH Nguyen Thoai (University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City)

Three Religions Fusion: A Paradigm of Philosophy, Religion, Ideology of the East Asian Countries and Vietnam in the Middle, Latter-Day

THẢO Vu Thị Thanh (University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City)

3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. / Session 4 Hall E301**Two Neo-Christian New Religions from Korea: The Unification Movement and the Victory Altar**

Chair: Massimo INTROVIGNE

Current Unification Church: Innovating or Creating a New Religion?

KIM Jongsuk (The Institute of the History of Korean Messianic Movement)

The Unification Pater-Materfamilias and the Challenges It Faces

Alexa BLONNER (University of Sydney)

Scientific Ideas in Victory Altar Church

Holly FOLK (Western Washington University, Bellingham)

About the Complete Soteriology of Nirvana that the Maitreya Buddha Preached

HAN Gang-Hyen (International Academy of Neo-Humans Culture, Bucheon City, Korea)

Respondent: KIM Youngjun (Family Peace Association)

3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. / Session 5 Room B201

In the Meantime, in the West

Chair: George CHRYSSIDES

A New Religion for the Upwardly Mobile: The Prosperity Gospel Movement

J. Gordon MELTON (Baylor University)

Religions in Italy 2018

PierLuigi ZOCCATELLI (CESNUR)

Cooperation and Innovation in Building the Seattle, Washington, USA, Branches of Mary Baker Eddy's Church

Cindy Peyser SAFRONOFF (Independent Researcher)

4.30 p.m. - 4.45 p.m. / Coffee Break

4.45 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. / Session 6 Room A201

Case Studies

Chair: Holly FOLK

Tradition and Innovation in Two Invented Religions: The Church of the SubGenius and the Otherkin

Carole CUSACK (University of Sydney)

Adapting, Innovating and Growing: Pentecostalism in the Caribbean

Nawal ISSAOUI (University of Bordeaux)

'Abd-al-Bahā and the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: Parallel Missions to the West

BEI Dawei (Hsuan Chuang University, Taiwan)

Why Hollywood Flirts with New Religions, but Refuses to Adopt Them

David RESNICK (Bar Ilan University, Israel)

4.45 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. / Session 7 Room B201**Esoteric Tradition and Innovation**

Chair: PierLuigi ZOCCATELLI

The Great Masters from the East: The Spiritual Teachings of the Wisła Esoteric Milieu (1918-1939)

Małgorzata Alicja DULSKA (Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland)

Tiffany Chang's Spiritual Fiction: Gender and Journey in Cross-Straits New Ages

Paul J. FARRELLY (The Australian National University)

Inventing a New Esoteric Buddhist Orthodoxy: The Case of Neo-Zhenyan

Cody BAHIR (University of California, Berkeley)

Native Americans, Samurai, and Greek Neo-Pagans: The Quasi-Orientalism of the Interpretation of Polytheistic Traditions by the Supreme Council of Ethnic Hellenes (YSEE)

Evangelos VOULGARAKIS (Independent Scholar)

4.45 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. / Session 8 Hall E301**I Ching and Feng Shui (I)**

Chair: Edward IRONS

The Cosmos Views of Feng Shui in Weixin Shengjiao

SHIH Kuo-Ching (Da-Yeh University, Taiwan)

The Relationship between School Education and Feng Shui

WANG Wang-Chun (National Taiwan University)

The Mystery of Feng Shui: How a Form, Shape or Structure Affects Health and Wealth

CHANG Yu-Yao (Mingdao University, Taiwan)

Success and Failure of Cross-industrial Investment and Using I Ching Principle

CHANG Ching-Wen (National Changhua University of Education)

Feng Shui as Religion and Politics Through Korean Dynasties

MIN Byeong-Sam (Brain Education University, Korea)

4.45 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. / Session 9 Room B301

East Asian New Religions: Similarities and Differences

Chair: LEE Gyungwon

*Yin-yang Theory as Adapted for Usage in New East Religions
-Observations Regarding Oomoto and Daesoon Jinrihoe-*
KIM Euseong (Daejin University, Pocheon, Korea)

*Heavenly Principle Moving from the Rising Sun to the Morning Calm: The
Japanese New Religion Tenrikyo and Adaptation to Korean Society*
LEE Suhyun (Ph.D. candidate, National Cheng Chi University, Taiwan)

*Flashing Across the Sky and Rumbling Through the Earth: Theory Regarding
Traditional Lightning Deities and Related Developments in Daesoon Jinrihoe*
SHIN Sangmi (Ph.D. candidate, Daejin University, Pocheon, Korea)

The Chosen One: Caodaism in Vietnam and Beyond
Thien-Huong T. NINH (Los Rios Community College, California)

6.40 p.m. - 7.45 p.m. / Dinner (B1, Building C, Weixin College)

8.00 p.m. - Buses will take participants back to Hotel Formosa

Wednesday June 20, 2018

8.30 a.m. - Buses will leave Hotel Formosa for Weixin College

9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. / Session 10 – Plenary Hall E301

Religious Tradition and Innovation In/From East Asia I

Chair: Eileen BARKER

Keeping Your Mojo: Creative Leadership Models in Hong Kong Sectarian Religion and the Example of Xiantiandao's Lung Hing Tong
Edward IRONS (Hong Kong Institute for Culture, Commerce and Religion)

The Caodai Organisational Structure: Developing a Sense of New Identity
Grzegorz FRASZCZAK (University of Vienna)

Sacred Transmission and Ecclesiastical Evolution: A Historical View of the Lineage of Religious Leaders in Daesoon-Jinrihoe
LEE Gyungwon (Daejin University, Pocheon City, Korea)

Holy Speech Immortalized through Sacred Ink: Progress in Sanctifying and Systematizing the Weixin Canon of Taiwan's Weixin Shengjiao
Fiona Hsin-Fang Chang (National Cheng Chi University, Taipei)

11 a.m. - 11.25 a.m. / Coffee Break

11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. / Session 11 – Plenary Hall E301

Religious Tradition and Innovation In / From East Asia II

Chair: Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD

Magic, Witchcraft, and Paganism in Contemporary Japan
Eriko KAWANISHI (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan)

Wind as the Breath of Gods and Water as the Abode of Dragon-Kings: A Comparative Overview of Divinely Received Feng Shui in the New East Asian Religions of Weixin Shengjiao, Daesoon Jinrihoe, and Caodaism
Jason GREENBERGER (Daejin University, Pocheon City, Korea) and
HWANG Hee-yeon (Daejin University, Pocheon City, Korea)

The Mother Goddess of the Cao Dai Religion

Joe HOBBS (University of Missouri, Columbia)

Chinese Five-Spice in the Land of Kimchi: How the Syncretic Religion, I-Kuan Tao, Adapted to Korea

David William KIM (Australian National University, Canberra, Australia)

The True Buddha School in the United States

J. Gordon MELTON (Baylor University, Waco, Texas)

1.30 p.m. - 2.45 p.m. / Business Lunch

2.45 p.m. - 4.35 p.m. / Session 12 Room B201

Tradition and Innovation: East Meets West

Chair: Malgorzata Alicja DULSKA

“Writing without Spelling”: How Jehovah’s Witnesses Spread their Teachings in Taiwan

George D. CHRYSSIDES (University of York St. John and Birmingham, United Kingdom)

Asian Jesus: Reflections on Why the East is Adopting the Religion of the West

Dyron DAUGHRITY (Pepperdine University, Malibu, California)

An Ancient Cousin: The Impact of Swedenborg’s Teachings about China

Andrew M.T. DIBB (Bryn Athyn College)

Poland as India of the West: Interpretations of Theosophical Notions Applied to the Polish Nation

Karolina Maria HESS (Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland)

2.45 p.m. - 4.35 p.m. / Session 13 Hall E301

From Kang Jeungsan to Daesoon Jinrihoe

Chair: LEE Gyungwon

Propagation of Daesoon Jinrihoe and Religious Innovation
YU Byeong-Mu (Daejin University, Pocheon City)

Characteristics of Daesoon Jinrihoe Ox-Seeking Pictures
JOO So-Yeon (Daejin University, Pocheon City)

Innovativeness of Daesoon Thought
KO Namsik (Daejin University, Pocheon City)

Kang Jeungsan and the Soteriology of Korean New Religions
PARK Ingyu (Seoul National University)

2.45 p.m. - 4.35 p.m. / Session 14 Room B301

“Cults”, Religions and Political Controversies

Chair: Holly FOLK

Rajneesh/Osho and Feminine Charisma: The Mysterious Life and Death of Ma Yoga Vivek
J. Susan PALMER (Concordia University, Montreal, Canada)

*“Spiritual Exclusion”: A Significant Component for the Murder in Knutby
Filadelfia*
Liselotte FRISK (Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden)

*“God’s Man in the White House”: Donald Trump in Pentecostal/Charismatic
Prophecies*
James BEVERLEY (Tyndale Seminary, Toronto)

4.35 p.m. - 4.45 p.m. / Coffee Break

4.45 p.m. - 6 p.m. / Session 15 – Plenary Hall E301

Religious Liberty Issues in China: The Case of The Church of Almighty God

Chair: J. Gordon MELTON

Fake News: Chinese Mobilization of Resources Against The Church of Almighty God as a Global Phenomenon

Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR)

The Age of Word: Legitimization through Scripture in The Church of Almighty God

Holly FOLK (Western Washington University, Bellingham)

Asylum Seekers of The Church of Almighty God and Refugee Boards: A Complicated Story

Rosita ŠORYTE (ORLIR, International Observatory of Religious Liberty of Refugees)

6.10 p.m. - 7.45 p.m. / Banquet (B1, Building C, Weixin College)

Presiding and Introducing: Fiona Hsin-Fang Chang and Massimo INTROVIGNE

The Jane Williams-Hogan Memorial Lecture:

Introducing: Andrew M.T. DIBB (Bryn Athyn College)

The Revitalization Theory of Anthony F. C. Wallace and the New Religions of East Asia

Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD (University of Bordeaux)

8.00 p.m. - Buses will take participants back to Hotel Formosa

Thursday June 21, 2018

8.30 a.m. - Buses will leave Hotel Formosa for Weixin College

9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. / Session 16 Room B201

The Church of Scientology in the 21st Century

Chair: Susan PALMER

Major Developments of the Church of Scientology at the Turn of the 21st Century
Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD (University of Bordeaux)

Scientology in Hungary: Data Protection and Religious Liberty Issues
Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR)

The Russian State Against Scientology: From the Deprivation of Religious Status to Accusations of Extremism
Boris FALIKOV (Russian State University, Moscow)

Respondent: Eric ROUX (European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom)

9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. / Session 17 Room B301

East Asian Case Studies

Chair: Grzegorz FRASZCZAK

Western and Asian Acculturation in Vietnam and the Rise of Cao Dai Movement
Mohammad ALAM (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)

How People Choose Their Religions in Taiwan: The Characteristics of the Followers Within Weixin Shengjiao
LIU Hsiu-Yi (National Cheng Chi University, Taipei, Taiwan)

The Religious Symbolism of Seoul City
KIM Chongsuh (Seoul National University)

9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. / Session 18 Hall E301

I Ching and Feng Shui (II) (in Chinese)

Chair: Fiona Hsin-Fang Chang

The Influence of Factory Feng Shui on Business: The Correlation between Sustainable Management of Family Business and Factory Feng Shui

LIN Tung-Jung (Da-Yeh University, Taipei, Taiwan)

The Influence of Feng Shui on the Architecture of Schools

CHIU Chin-Yin (National Taiwan University of Science and Technology)

The Fate of Investment and the Principles of I Ching

WANG Ming-Hsien (Da-Yeh University, Taipei, Taiwan)

Weixin Shengjiao I Ching University

LIAO Sung-Cheng (Chinese Culture University, Taiwan)

The Development of a Feng Shui Program for Healing

SHIN, Young Dae (Jeju Tourism University, Korea)

11 a.m. - 11.10 a.m. / Group Photo

11.10 a.m. - 11.20 a.m. / Coffee Break

11.20 a.m. - 1.20 p.m. / Session 19 – Plenary Hall E301

On the Shoulders of Giants: Eileen Barker, the Study of New Religions and Religious Leadership – A Session Honoring Eileen Barker on Her Significant Birthday

Presiding and Introducing: J. Gordon MELTON

Keynote Lecture: Old and New: Here, There and Everywhere

Eileen BARKER (London School of Economics)

Panel Introduction: Leadership in the New Religions: Charismatization, Routinization and?

Milda ALISAUŠKIENĖ (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas) and

Edward IRONS (Hong Kong Institute for Culture, Commerce and Religion)

Discussants:

George CHRYSSIDES

Susan PALMER

Liselotte FRISK

Massimo INTROVIGNE

13.30 – Buses will leave Weixin College for the field trip

(box lunch will be provided)

Field Trip - Day 1: Weixin Shengjiao

Visits to Weixin Shengjiao Headquarters at Chan Chi Shan Hsien Fo Temple, Nantou City, and to Weixin Shengjiao Taichung Branch Temple, Taichung City. Dinner at Taichung Branch Temple and return to Hotel Formosa.

Friday June 22, 2018

Field Trip - Day 2: True Buddha School and T'ienti Teachings

Buses will depart Hotel Formosa at 9 a.m., after participants will have checked out. Visits to Lei Cang Sih (True Buddha School), in Nantou City, and to T'ienti Teachings, an important Taiwan-based new religion, in Maoli City. The day will conclude with a visit and dinner at Weixin Shengjiao's Da-An Branch Temple in New Taipei City, Taipei. Accommodation at Green World Hotel Nangan.

Saturday June 23, 2018

Field Trip - Day 3: The Watchman Nee - Witness Lee Tradition and Tao Yuan

Buses will depart Green World Hotel Nangan at 9 a.m. The first part of the day will be devoted to exploring the Christian tradition of Watchman Nee (1903-1972) and Witness Lee (1905-1997) and bring participants to The Lord's Recovery Exhibition Hall in Taipei and to the Local Church of Witness Lee in Taipei. After lunch, we will visit Tao Yuan, a Taiwanese new religion rooted in Spiritualism. Planchette writing, typical of Tao Yuan, will be demonstrated at 3 p.m. The field trip will end at 5 p.m. and participants will have the option to be taken by bus to Taoyuan International Airport in Taipei for departure on June 23 or to Green World Hotel Nangan in Taipei, in case they will leave on June 24.



Weixin Shengjiao Eight Trigrams Holy City

THE 2018 CESNUR Conference Building Floor Plan June 19~21



