

Symposium on
Religious Diversity in Chinese Thought
27. – 31.10.2011
University of Münster (WWU)
Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

Over the past three decades, the question of religious diversity – in particular the question of how the different religious traditions relate to the fact of religious diversity – has attracted enormous attention and advanced to one of the central issues within the global discussion in academic areas as theology and religious studies. So far, however, the experience of religious diversity and the discourse about it in pre-modern, modern and contemporary China has not been taken adequately into consideration. This was the topic of a symposium of internationally renowned specialists, which has been jointly organized by Prof. Joachim Gentz, University of Edinburgh, and Prof. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, University of Münster.



L-R: Prof. Joachim
Gentz and Prof.
Perry Schmidt-
Leukel

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Conference Program:

Thursday, 27/10/2011



Introduction to the Conference Theme (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel)

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Address of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Ursula (Speaker of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”)

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Address of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Gerd Althoff (Speaker of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”)

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Address of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Konrad Hammann (Dekan der Evangelisch-Theologischen Fakultät)



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Public Keynote Lecture: “Why Chinese Thought on Religious Diversity Matters”. Prof. Dr. Judith A. Berling (Graduate Theological Union)



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Public Keynote Lecture: “Why Chinese Thought on Religious Diversity Matters”. Prof. Dr. Gregor Paul (University of Karlsruhe, German China Association)



Reception at the Schlossgarten Restaurant

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Friday, 28/10/2011

Section I: Perspectives from Premodern China



Livia Kohn (University of Boston): *Daoist Approaches to Religious Diversity*

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Yao Xinzong (King's College London): *Confucian Approaches to Religious Diversity*

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Shi Zhiru (Pomona College, Claremont):
Buddhist Approaches to Religious Diversity in Pre-Modern China



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Joachim Gentz (Edinburgh University):
Diversity in Three-Teachings (sanjiao)



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Adam Chau (University of Cambridge):
Religious Diversity from the Perspective of Religious Consumers



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Murata Sachiko (State University of New York): *Muslim Approaches to Religious Diversity in China*

Saturday, 29/10/2011



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Following a Guided Tour of Münster, Participants signed the 'Golden Book' in the Town Hall



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Participants at the *Peacehall of Münster* where the *Peace of Münster* – a treaty between the Dutch Republic and Spain – was signed in 1648

Section II: Transformations in Modernity



Nicolas Standaert (University of Leuven): *Early Sino-European Contacts and the Birth of the Modern Concept of Religion*

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Rebecca Nedostup (Boston College): *The Transformation of the Concept of Religion in Chinese Modernity*

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Robert Wellter (Boston University): *Communist/Maoist Thought on Religious Diversity*

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Sunday, 30/10/2011

Section III: Contemporary Perspectives



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Philip Clart (University of Leipzig): *Religious Ecology vs. Religious Market: Two Competing Theoretical Models in Current Chinese Scholarship on Religions*



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Wang Zhicheng (Zhejiang University Hangzhou): *Do Chinese Religions Need a Pluralist Theory of Religion?*



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Lai Pan-chiu (The Chinese University of Hongkong): *Christian Discourses on Religious Diversity in Contemporary China*



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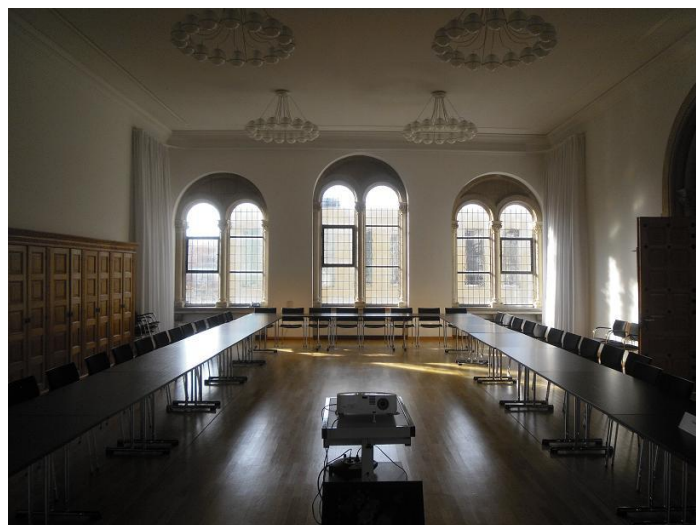
Liu Peng (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing): *The Religious Policy in Contemporary China*



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Barend Ter Haar (University of Leiden): *New Religious Movements and the Issue of Religious Liberty*

Conference Venue: Liudgerhaus Münster



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Impressions from the reception at the historical Friedenssal

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