Organizers: EU project CHINET, reg. no.: CZ.1.07/2.3.00/20.0152, Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University Olomouc & Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University Brno

Conference venue:
- Art Centre (Konvikt), Palacký University Olomouc, Univerzitní 3, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Conference language: English

Keynote speakers:
- Fan Lizhu (Fudan University, China)
- Chen Na (Fudan University, China)
- Dan Smyer Yu (Yunnan University of Nationalities, China)
- Benjamin Penny (Australian National University, Australia)
- André Laliberté (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Gerda Wielander (University of Westminster, UK)

Conference topics:
Religion in contemporary Chinese society is undoubtedly one of many important neuralgic points that have arisen from its turbulent development and will also shape its future. Compared with the professional and public interest in popular themes of development in contemporary China (such as economics, social policy, environmental issues, ethnic relations, demographics, urbanization, migration, militarization, nationalism, etc.), analysing the changes and the impacts of religions in Chinese society plays rather a minor role. However, if we inspect this topic taking the Chinese historical experience into account, or if we consider it with regard to knowledge of the developments in the world after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it is religion that has the potential to motivate and frame major changes at both the local and global levels. Chinese political elites are quite aware of the importance of religious issues, and since the unexpected conflict with the religious movement Falun Gong at the end of 20th century, their religious policy has therefore been, at least nominally, rather strictly defined. This strict approach cannot prevent an unstoppable development and transformation of the religious situation in contemporary China that involves multiple varieties of religious traditions at all social levels and in all regions inhabited or controlled by the Chinese people.

The potentials, motivations, effectiveness and impacts of particular policies that are attempting to rectify the spontaneous religious developments will constitute the focus of this conference. We are looking forward to open a forum for all those interested in debating and further analysing the changes in the field of religion in contemporary China, and of the impact that various official policies have had on this process. We are seeking research presentations (20–30 minutes in length) or session proposals of any disciplinary backgrounds which relate to the general theme of Religions and Politics in Contemporary Chinese Societies. These could include, but are not confined to, the following subthemes:

- The religious policy of the Chinese state – historical, ideological and international contexts;
- The blending of religious and ethnic policies;
- Christianity as a threat from across the borders vs. Christianity with Chinese characteristics;
- Islam and its representations in the global and local contexts;
- State policies towards “superstition” and new religious movements;
- Matchmaking between the Chinese state and Chinese religious “ideology”;
- Local government and local religious traditions;
- Commercialization and commodification of religion;
- Repression, regulation and support of religion by the Chinese state;
- International religious policy and religious policy of the Overseas communities;
- The role and concept of religion in the Chinese political system;
- The religious dimension of Chinese politics and the Chinese state;
- Political ambitions of the Chinese religious community.
Deadlines:
The deadline for the call for papers abstracts: 1st March 2015
Information for notification of acceptance of abstracts: 8th March 2015

Conference fees: Free of charge

Note: Participants will cover all their personal costs, including transportation, accommodation, visas, etc. Our staff can provide you with an invitation letter for embassies if necessary.

About the city of Olomouc

Olomouc is the capital of the region of Central Moravia and belongs to one of the oldest cities in the Czech Republic. The region is distinguished for its agriculture, industry and beautiful countryside, as well as its historical and cultural traditions. The city dates back to the ninth century, when it was a power centre of the Great Moravian Kingdom, the oldest Slavonic state. Today Olomouc has over 100,000 inhabitants and its long history makes it one of the most beautiful cities of the Czech Republic, mainly due to its well preserved historical inner city (after Prague, the second largest in the Czech Republic).

About Palacký University Olomouc

Palacký University Olomouc is one of the oldest universities in Central Europe. Drawing on more than a 400-year tradition of higher education, it is nowadays an important centre for teaching and research with almost 23,000 undergraduate students in eight faculties. You can find more details about the city and the University on the following web pages: www.upol.cz/en; http://www.olomouc.eu/eng/.

About the conference venue

The Baroque building of the former Jesuit College is one of the oldest parts of the university in Olomouc. After an exacting renovation of a grand scale, Palacký University now owns a spacious historical building with many original rooms and halls. Five fine art departments of the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education have thus gained new lecture halls, fine art studios, recording studios, representative conference halls for international venues, and rooms for its students and teachers. The historical centre of Olomouc now has another centre for culture and the arts. For more details: http://www.upol.cz/en/art-centre/.

Click on this button to submit your abstract (max 300 words).
Abstracts must be submitted by 1st March 2015.

For further details visit the CHINET website: www.chinet.cz
or contact us at the e-mail chinet.conference@gmail.com

The conference is co-funded by the CHINET project (reg. no. CZ.1.07/2.3.00/20.0152). This project is co-financed from the European Social Fund and State financial resources.