

Evil in Chinese Religion

Monday, November 17, 2014 8:50am to 5:15pm CGIS South, Room So30 1730 Cambridge Street, Harvard University

"Evil" (邪) in Chinese religion has attracted surprisingly little attention. This panel will examine the concept in both its exorcistic and its political frames. Evil entities (邪東西) like ghosts or fox spirits possess people and destroy lives. Some Chinese Christians have a related discourse of the satanic. Evil cults (邪教) possess followers and destroy social order. Panelists will be asked to address questions that include: (1) Has the nature of evil changed over time? (2) How do modern uses of "evil cult" relate to those in the Qing Dynasty or earlier? (3) How do understandings of evil help to shape understandings of the good, and how might this have changed over time?

Michael Szonyi, Harvard University Chinese Ghosts and the Evil that Men Do

Xiaofei Kang, George Washington University "Gaixie guizheng": Gender and the Anti-Medium Campaign in Yan'an, 1944-1945

Robert P. Weller, Boston University, and Keping Wu, National University of Singapore A Monkey Demon Battles the Banality of Good

Poul Andersen, University of Hawaii Why Are Images Evil?

Barend ter Haar, University of Oxford Giving Believers Back Their Voice: Agency and Heresy in Late Imperial China **Eugenio Menegon,** Boston University Christians as "Evil" in Late Imperial China: Qing State Control, Foreign Presence, and Native Agency during the Yongzheng Reign

David Mozina, Boston College Ritual Grapplings with "Evil" in Local Daoist Ritual in Hunan Province

Workshop organizers: Robert Weller, Boston University, and Michael Puett, Harvard University Cosponsored with the Center for the Study of Asia, Boston University

