

IHSS 6005: Selected Topics in Religion and Society in Asia:

Ethnography and text in the anthropological study of Daoism

Graduate seminar, HKIHSS, Spring semester 2019

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This seminar will focus on ethnographic and textual approaches to the anthropological study of Daoist ritual in the context of Chinese communal religion, interrogating methodological and theoretical issues arising from the combination of ethnographic, historical and textual materials. The seminar will include two parts: (1) key readings on Daoist ritual and society by Schipper, Lagerwey, Dean, Faure, Meulenbeld, Saso and Kleeman; (2) workshops on primary textual and video materials on local ritual traditions among Han and Yao communities.

Proposed time slot: Mondays, 12-2 pm.

Sessions:

1. 28 Jan: Schipper, *The Daoist Body*
2. 18 Feb: Lagerwey, *Taoist Ritual* and Saso, *Taoism and the Rite of Cosmic Renewal*
3. 4 Mar: Faure, *The Structure of Chinese Rural Society; Emperor and Ancestor*
4. 25 Mar.: Dean, *Taoist Ritual and Popular Cults; Ritual Alliances of the Putian Plain*
5. 8 Apr.: Kleeman, *Celestial Masters*
6. 29 Apr.: Meulenbeld, *Demonic Warfare*.

Assessment:

Attendance and participation: 20%. Students must give a brief presentation of one of the readings in the seminar.

5000-word essay on a topic agreed with the instructor, which may be related to your dissertation research: 80%.

Bibliography

Dean, Kenneth. 1993. *Taoist Ritual and Popular Cults in Southeast China*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Dean, Kenneth and Zheng Zhenman. 2009. *Ritual Alliances of the Putian Plain*. Boston: Brill.

- Faure, David. 1986. *The Structure of Chinese Rural Society*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Faure, David. 2007. *Emperor and Ancestor: State and Lineage in South China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Kleeman, Terry. 2016. *Celestial Masters: History and Ritual in Early Daoist Communities*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center.
- Lagerwey, John. 1987. *Taoist Ritual in Chinese Society and History*. New York: Macmillan.
- Lagerwey, John. 2010. *China: A Religious State*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Meulenbeld, Mark. 2015. *Demonic Warfare*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Saso, Michael. 1972. *Taoism and the Rite of Cosmic Renewal*. Pullman: Washington State University Press.
- Schipper, Kristofer. 1994. *The Daoist Body*. Berkeley: University of California Press.