

The **University of Cambridge Department of East Asian Studies** is pleased to announce the following lecture in its series of East Asian seminars.

This seminar starts at **5:00PM** and will take place in **Rooms 8 & 9** in the Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (formerly Oriental Studies), Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA, unless otherwise indicated.



### **Chinese Voices in the Rites Controversy : The Globalisation of a Local Problem, 1701-1704'**

Professor Nicolas Standaert, The Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium,  
Monday, 20th February 2012, Rooms 8 and 9, 5:00p.m

The Chinese Rites Controversy in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries is often considered a purely European affair. Yet, to what extent did Chinese scholars take part in the debates concerning the rites? An exceptional series of Chinese and European sources dating from the years 1701-1704 provide new evidence for the Chinese voices in this controversy. They include a collection of some 60 Chinese letters with the impressive number of ca. 430 different signatories that were sent to Rome to make their voice heard. These letters provide a unique insight in the sociological composition of the local Christian communities and the networks that existed between them at the beginning of the eighteenth century. This lecture will investigate how knowledge about Chinese rites was produced, distributed, and exchanged at that time.

Nicolas Standaert is Professor of Sinology at K.U. Leuven. He specialises in the cultural contacts between China and Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His recent publications include *An Illustrated Life of Christ Presented to the Chinese Emperor: The History of Jincheng shuxiang (1640)* (Monumenta Serica Monograph Series LIX; Sankt Augustin Nettetal: Steyler Verlag, 2007); *The Interweaving of Rituals: Funerals in the Cultural Exchange between China and Europe* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008) [Chinese trans.: *Liyi de jiaozhi: Mingmo Qingchu ZhongOu wenhua jiaoliu zhong de zangli*, Shanghai: Shanghai guji chubanshe, 2009

**For further information contact:**

Dr Adam Chau  
Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China  
Department of East Asian Studies  
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
Email: [ayc25@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ayc25@cam.ac.uk)