Multiple Meanings of Multiple Christianities: New Agendas for Research in a Polysemic Chinese Religious Field

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Abstract:

The term “religion” has multiple dimensions and can refer to extremely disparate forms of cultural consciousness and social organization. Christianity-as-religion itself encompasses the full range of these ambiguous meanings, so much so that from a sociological point of view it is more useful to speak of Christianities than of variants within a single Christianity. I give examples of the variety of Chinese Christianities and suggest new research agendas for studying them.

Speaker:

RICHARD MADSEN is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of California, San Diego and Acting Provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College at UCSD. He has written extensively on the sociology of morality, religion and politics, in both the United States and Asia. His latest book is Democracy’s Dharma: Religious Renaissance and Political Development in Taiwan.