

International Workshop on Ideas of Others in Different Cultures

March 8th-9th, 2007, Fragrant Hill, Beijing

Jointly Organized and Sponsored

by the Center for Theoretical and Methodological Inquiries in Anthropology (National Social Science Innovation Center at CMU), Transcultural of Europe, and Manyatta Fellows of Peking University,

Chaired by Professor Wang Mingming

1. Explanation of the Theme

In recent decades, critical studies of the concept of Other in anthropology have greatly advanced. Many studies have focused upon anthropological discourses of Other as “external” reifications of “local histories” and “life-worlds” (e.g., as narratives of colonialism and modernity). Compared with such critiques of the Other, much less has been said about the different ways in which people living in different cultural traditions and specific social and ecological settings have conceptualized and lived with their “others” (including the categories ranging from other humans, e.g., neighbors, strangers, visitors, outsiders, foreigners, deities, spirits, ghosts, devils, and so forth to non-humans, or semi-humans, or supra-humans, including “divinities” and “things”). Anthropology, a discipline that claims to have built its enterprise on the concept of Other, is in need for more sufficient interpretations about what we can draw from the local ways in which the “informants” view such categories.

In the belief that understanding different cultural ideas of others is critical to our understanding of world-views, ethics, ethnicity, and trans-cultural processes and is so important to human co-existence, we plan an advanced workshop on the topic. We hope to bring a small group of specialists to offer their different perspectives. We encourage participants to present different approaches. In particular, we look forward to bringing together cosmological (ethno-philosophical), micro-sociological, and social theoretical analyses.

2. Working Languages

Working languages are English and Chinese. Papers can be written in English or Chinese. English papers will be translated orally into Chinese. Discussions will be both-way translation. Translators are Professor Liang Yongjia, Mr. Zhao Yuzhong, and Mr. Zheng Shaoxiong.

Program of the Workshop

Day One (August 8th)

Morning

10 :00 - 12:00 Registration (Non-Chinese participants will be picked up in the lobby of International Hotel at 9:00 am on the 8th of March and taken directly to the location of conference: Fragrant Hill Villa, a small hotel at the backdoor of Fragrant Hill Park and near a village where we have had our rooms, meals, and conference facilities reserved).

12:30 Lunch

2:00-2:30 Opening ceremony, chair, Yang Shengmin
Introduction and welcoming words by Wang Mingming

2:30-4:00 Comparative perspectives of others (1), Chairs, Alain Le Pichon and Wang Jianmin

Nicole Lapierre (France)
Patrick Deshayes (France)
Richard Pottier (France)
Theirry Baffoy (France)
Alain Bertho (France)

4:00-4:30 Tea Break

4:30-6:00 Comparative perspectives of others (2), chairs, Nicole Lapierre and Pan Jiao

Alain Le Pichon (France)
Kim Kwang-Ok (South Korea)
Balveer Arora (India)
Moussa Sow (Mali)
Tinka Reichmann (Germany)
Jesus Garcia Ruiz (Latin America)
Ahmed Djebbar (Algeria)

6:30 Dinner

August 9th

Chinese Sessions

Morning

9:30-11:30 Special Roundtable discussion on New Perspectives of *Minzu* Studies in China for the journal Chinese Review of Anthropology, chairs, Ma Rong and Kim Kwang-Ok

Key participants:

Yang Shengmin

Kim Kwang-OK

Ma Rong

Wang Jianmin

Pan Jiao

Weng Naiqun

Pan Shouyong

Liang Yongjia

Afternoon

2:00-5:00 Postgraduate Reading Group: Anthropological Understandings of Others, chair, Wang Mingming

Zhang Yuan, Tang Yun, Meng Hang, Gao Yuan, Yang Qingmei, Zeng Qiongshi, Lin Minxia, Zhang Yahui, Liu Xueting, Liu Qi, Zhang Fan

August 10th

12:00 Check out

Notes:

1. Most of the participants have not prepared their titles of papers; the workshop has been programmed in the form of free talks.

2. Anyone who needs assistance should contact our chair and secretaries.

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