

Workshop on Ideas of the Other in Different Cultures  
Beijing, China

**1. Explanation of the Theme**

In recent decades, critical studies of the concept of the Other in anthropology have greatly advanced. Many studies have focused upon anthropological discourses of the 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 the 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. Time of Workshop**

8-9 March, 2007

**3. Place**

Fragrant Hill Villa, Beijing, China. Participants will be picked up at the lobby of International Hotel Beijing on 8 March at 9 o'clock.

**4. Finance**

All local expenses during the workshop will be covered by The Chinese Center for Theoretical and Methodological Inquiries in Anthropology, CUN, Beijing.

**5. Publication**

The papers and debates will be published in Chinese a year after the workshop and we hope an English or French version can be produced. Participants are invited to deliver their drafts of papers to Professor Wang Mingming well before the dates of workshop.

**6. Chair**

Wang Mingming (Professor and Formal Chair of Anthropology, Peking University, Tepin Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Central Minzu University)

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