

Nau mai, haere mai

Ngāi Tahu Research Centre invites you to a series of short seminars, from a group of academic leaders in the School of Ethnology and Anthropology (SEA), Yunnan University, China.

In recent years the NTRC has developed a close partnership with the SEA. The purpose of the relationship is to facilitate learning between the two institutions, and to explore common insights regarding indigenous and ethnic minority history and development.

This year the NTRC is hosting the SEA as part of Ngāi Tahu's hui a iwi celebrations. As part of this visit the SEA is providing five seminars at the University of Canterbury exploring different themes related to ethnic minorities in China.

Presenters: Prof. Zhang Liang, Prof. Xiao-Bin Li, Prof. Qin Yanjia, Prof. Zhang Haichao, Dr. Jianfeng Zhang

Date: Thursday 23rd November
Time: 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Venue: Room 208, Te Ao Marama Building



Discussion Topics:

Prof. Zhang Liang

"Qing Zhen": Embodiment of Islamic Knowledge and Lifestyle: A Case Study on Tongdao Street, Huimin District of Hohhot City

Abstract: Considering intimate connections between Hui and other ethnic groups in China, studies on Hui can provide significant insight into the relationships among the ethnic groups in this country as well as the interactions between multiethnic integration and the establishment of the modern nation-state. The "Qing Zhen" lifestyle adopted by the Hui Muslims not only offers an approach to interpret the ethnic identity of that nationality but also as a key to learn about the socio-cultural integration in a multi-ethnic society. Besides, investigation on "Qing Zhen", the embodiment of Islamic knowledge and lifestyle, by ethnographic method also allows us to comprehend cultural traits of Hui communities and, more important, the interactive relationship among the ethnic groups in local society by probing the socio-cultural interactional mechanism in these localities.

Prof. Xiao-Bin Li

A comparative study of Yunnan Mongolian and Hui Peoples culture change in Ming and Qing Dynasties

Abstract: Mongolian and Hui ethnic minorities came into Yunnan during the Yuan Dynasty. They became widely distributed geographically and mixed among the Han peoples. This led to cultural changes generating similarities with the Han. However, during the Ming and Qing Dynasties they formed different trajectories in economic life, psychological quality, and other aspects, leading to increased differences and cultural change between them.

Prof. Qin Yanjia

Ritual Tradition and the Construction of Local Culture: A Study of the Shigong in southern China

Abstract: This seminar explores the role Shigong (师公) (Taoist specialists) play in the ritual world of Guangxi province.

Prof. Zhang Haichao

The Cultivation of Glutinous Rice in southwest Border Area of China: A case study of Dai people

Abstract: This paper aims to explore the traditional rice production system of Dai people who living in the southwest frontier of China. It is outlined how the Dai have their own unique rice culture that contains great ecological wisdom.

Dr. Jianfeng Zhang

From Gifts to Merchandises: A Social Life History of Pounamu in New Zealand

Abstract: While being unique and profound in Maori culture, pounamu has played a major role in the history of Ngai Tahu in the South Island. This paper, through the presentation of the social life history of pounamu, reveals the economic transition of Maori society from hunter-gatherers, to colonized, to tribal capitalists. Its fate in the postmodern context throws light on the direction of global indigenous autonomy.

RSVP for this event by contacting: mel.eade@canterbury.ac.nz