

Chinese Delegation of US Election Observation

The mission of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society (CRCS) is to serve as a bridge between Chinese and American scholars for the advancement of the social scientific study of religion in society and to promote mutual understanding between Chinese and American peoples. We carry out the mission by organizing research projects, academic conferences, and public forums, and by producing scholarly publications, speaking to the media, and hosting visiting scholars. It was thus a great occasion to integrate many of these activities while hosting a Chinese delegation that came to observe the US general election.



The Chinese delegation of about 15 people visited Chicago and Indiana from October 30 to November 7, 2012. Organized by the Carter Center, the Chinese delegates included public intellectuals, renowned bloggers, active scholars, and government officials. CRCS researchers and student interns helped to organize some of the events and participated in almost all of the activities.

The delegation first spent a few days in Chicago, where they visited the League of Women Voters, Chinese-American Services League, Chicago Communist Party, Trinity United Church of Christ, Occupy Chicago General Assembly, Get Out the Vote Rallies, and Obama's Campaign Office and participated in seminars at the University of Chicago.

Upon arriving at Purdue in the late afternoon of November 4, the Chinese delegates participated in the "Global China Forum: Directions and Options of Chinese Democratization." Professor George Hong, CRCS Co-Director, chaired the forum. The panelists included HU Wei (Shanghai Jiaotong University), LI Weidong (former editor-in-chief of *China Reform* magazine), ZHOU Hucheng (Chahar Institute on Public Diplomacy), ZHAO Kejin (Tsinghua University), and Yawei Liu, Director of the Carter Center's China Program, who served as the discussant. The chair, panelists, and discussant each made insightful observations and gave well thought-out suggestions. A common observation was that China today is facing the challenge of either political reform or a social revolution. While most people favor electoral democracy as well as deliberative democracy, they differ in the ideal path of implementing a democratic election in China, whether starting from the bottom up, top down, or in the middle level of counties. Professor Fenggang Yang, CRCS founding director, expressed doubts about democratization in a society where both the political elites and ordinary citizens lack faith and church, which, in Tocquevillian terms, are moral associations upon which American democracy was in part based. The presentations stimulated enthusiastic interactions with the audience.

On November 5, the delegation went to Indianapolis and visited local election service centers, a county election office, the Indiana Secretary of the State, the Indiana Republican Party headquarters, and the Socialist Party Office. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels welcomed the Chinese delegation at his Statehouse office and fondly recalled his many fruitful visits to China and friendships formed with Chinese

Continue to page 2

Inside the Issue

CSSP Research Workshop 2012.....	3
The 9th Summer Institute	6
New Visiting Scholars.....	7
Thought of Visiting Scholar	8

Continue from page 1

officials. He also answered questions from Chinese delegates about his legacy as the governor of Indiana and about the presidential election. Mitch Daniels was once urged by some Republicans to run for the U.S. Presidency. Instead, he decided to accept the position of President of Purdue University and will take office upon completion of his second term as governor in mid January 2013. Both the Governor and the Chinese delegates felt the time was too short for further interaction and expressed the hope of meeting and talking again in the future, perhaps in China.



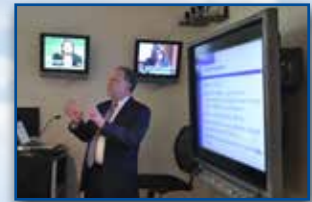
Welcome Dinner

In the evening of November 5, CRCS Director Fenggang Yang hosted a dinner for the Chinese delegation at the Purdue Memorial Union. Purdue's Acting President Timothy Sands, International Programs Dean Michael Brzezinski, and College of Liberal Arts Dean Irwin Weiser gave welcome speeches. Following this was a closed-door meeting with Purdue experts on American politics and elections, organized exclusively for the Chinese delegation. Professor James McCann of Political Science and Professor Emeritus James Davidson of Sociology explained the important factors of political party identification, moral values, personality, race and ethnicity, and religion in the general election. Other participants of the meeting included CLA Associate Dean Andy Buckser, Sociology Department Head Bert

Useem, History Department Head Douglas Hurt, Religious Studies Program Director Angelica Duran, and several sociologists with expertise in American politics.

On the election day of November 6, the Chinese delegates left the hotel before 5 o'clock in the morning to observe the opening of poll centers in Tippecanoe County. Throughout the day, the delegates visited a total of 14 voting centers in rural and urban areas, observed the counting of votes at a county clerk's office, and joined the post-election rally of the Republican Party at a stadium in Indianapolis.

Before leaving for Chicago on November 7 and returning to China the next day, the delegation made a visit to the C-SPAN Archives at Purdue Research Park. Archives Director Robert Browning introduced C-SPAN and the archives to the delegation. The news media is considered the fourth estate in American democracy. Unlike the commercial media corporations and bypassing much of the elitist maneuvers, the non-profit C-SPAN has served to bring live broadcast of sessions of Congress, major think-tank conference presentations, and many other meetings directly to the living rooms of citizens.



Robert Browning

Democracy is a complex combination of social and political institutions. The Chinese delegation observed many of the layers and dimensions during their brief visit. Many delegates showed great interest in the operational details of the election as well as the broad ideas and institutional designs of democracy.



Interviewed by Journal & Courier

Meanwhile, the Chinese observers were also observed by those they interacted with, and by the local media as well. The *Journal and Courier*, Channel 18 Television, and the National Public Radio Station of WBAA all interviewed some of the Chinese delegates and wrote interesting reports. We look forward to future opportunities to have similarly fruitful engagements.



In C-SPAN



James Davison, Fenggang Yang
& James McCann



In the forum



Research Workshop 2012:

How to Publish Papers in International Journals

By Alice Wang

The Third Summer Research Workshop of the Chinese Spirituality and Society Program was held from July 19 - August 19, 2012. The first three weeks of the workshop took place on the campus of Purdue University, and morning lectures were given on the subject of how to publish papers in international journals. In the afternoon, the participants reported on the progress in their research, shared their insights, and discussed the problems they had encountered. During the weekends, arrangements were made for participants to visit a number of local religious institutions. In the fourth week, the workshop participants traveled to Washington DC to meet with scholars from Georgetown University and the Berkeley Center, as well as visited well-known religious institutions there.

Invited Lectures



David Palmer

The focus of the 2012 workshop was on learning how to publish in international journals with the hope that the results of these Chinese scholars' research would eventually be presented to international readers. Renowned scholars and journal editors from the U.S. and abroad were invited to speak on the format and process of publishing as well as to share their insights into publishing in international journals.

On the first day of the workshop, Professor David Palmer from Hong Kong University spoke in fluent Chinese on his experience turning a 2009 conference paper into an article entitled, "Gift and Market in the Chinese Religious Economy," which was published in the British journal *Religion* in 2011.

The workshop concluded with another lecture in Chinese delivered by Professor André Laliberté of the University of Ottawa, Canada. Laliberté shared his experience publishing articles in both English and French in European journals. In his second lecture, Professor Laliberté talked about his research in mainland China and his experiences as a guest editor for a scholarly journal.

On July 25 and 26, Professor Yang selected two of his articles, "Lost in the Market, Saved at McDonald's: Conversion to Christianity in Urban China" and "Mapping Chinese Folk Religion in Mainland China and Taiwan," both published in *The Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion* in 2005 and 2012, respectively, as examples of the entire process of writing and publishing. Also, Professor Yang told the audience how he responded to unfavorable comments and biased editors and eventually prevailed in gaining the confidence of the US academic community.

On July 27, Professor Roger Finke from Pennsylvania State University gave a lecture, "Publishing in Social Science Journals," which covered basic but probing questions such as, "What makes an idea publishable?" and various aspects of the submission process.

"Why publish at all?" was the question posed by Professor Adam Yuet Chau from Cambridge University to open his lecture on August 2. Then in the afternoon, Professor Bin Chen from Hunan Province gave a progress report on his research adopting Chau's theory. The workshop made it possible for these two scholars from the opposite sides of the earth to exchange ideas face to face.



Fenggang Yang & Roger Finke

Professor George Hong from Purdue University Calumet and co-director of CRCS talked about his strategy for publishing in international journals and introduced the newly developed CRCS project on spatial studies of religion and society. He showed how space-time data in different formats and sources can be used in this cutting edge research.

CENTER ON RELIGION AND CHINESE SOCIETY



Professor Rhys Williams, Professor and Chair of Sociology at Loyola University and editor of *The Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion* and Patricia Wittberg, Professor of Sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and editor of *The Review of Religious Research* presented their lectures from the unique perspective of insiders. As valuable as their comments and suggestions were, what impressed the audience most was the dedication of all these scholars in the academic community, who have served diligently, selflessly, and faithfully to sustain the high standard of scholarship demonstrated by the quality of these journals.



Rhys Williams
and Patricia Wittberg

Project Reports

The afternoons were devoted to progress reports by the workshop participants. The sixteen scholars and their research plans were selected from a large pool of proposals submitted by scholars from all over mainland China. Since all the research was approaching the stage of completion, a number of projects began to emerge that showed high quality investigations and promising contributions to the academic community.



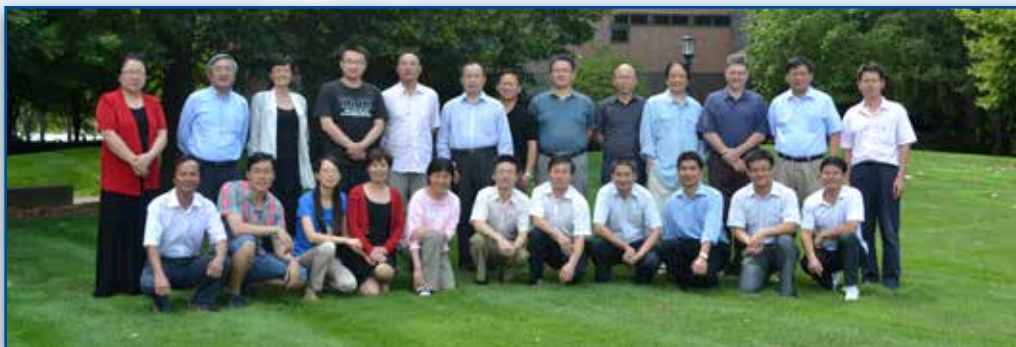
Lectures and discussions

Onsite Visits

During the weekends, the workshop scheduled visits to local religious sites including Kossuth Street Baptist Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Center (the Catholic Center at Purdue), and St. Mary's Cathedral, all in the greater Lafayette area, as well as a trip to the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. The participants were deeply affected by the sacred ambience created by the beautiful architecture of St. Mary's Cathedral and were impressed by the eloquent African American preacher at the Willow Creek Church.



The three weeks flew by as the workshop participants packed for their next destination, which was Washington D.C. During the time at Purdue, everyone reaped an abundant harvest from the guest speakers' lectures and from the exchanges with each other over research theories, methods, practices, and personal experiences. Perhaps one day in the future when all the results of these projects are published for Chinese and international readers, and when we look back at this time, we will fully appreciate the value of this academic community and those who sustain it with their talents and efforts.



CENTER ON RELIGION AND CHINESE SOCIETY

The Visit to Washington, D.C.

By YUAN Hao

After the completion of the activities of the Summer Training Workshop at Purdue University, the CSSP participants, led by Professor Fenggang Yang, flew to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of seminars and visits co-organized with the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University.



Basilica of the National Shrine

During the three day seminar, the Berkley Center organized five lectures on special topics for the workshop participants. They were “American Civil Religion in a Multipolar World” presented by Thomas Banchoff, the Director of the Berkley Center; “Religion, Politics, and Society in the United States and China” by the renowned sociologist of religion, José Casanova; “Religion and the US Presidential Election” by Clyde Wilcox, a professor of Political Science; “Evangelicals in US Politics and Society” by Galen Carey, the Vice President of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE); and “Religious Freedom in American Politics and Foreign Policy” by Thomas Farr, Director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center. Also, based on Fenggang Yang’s new book, *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule*, Professors José Casanova and Fenggang Yang had a wonderful dialogue on the concepts of “market” and “economy” in the religion market economy theory and the applicability of this theory in different countries and social contexts, as well as the concepts of “pluralism” and “freedom.”



Berkley Center



George McLean

In the afternoon of August 13, Professor Fenggang Yang led the participants on a visit to the Catholic University of America, which is a private university founded in 1887 and supported by the Catholic Church. The buildings on the campus are dominated by a Romanesque design. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was the most compelling. This church was constructed in a Neo-Byzantine architectural style. The huge dome, the spacious interior, and the mosaics feature the stories of the Bible and produce an awesome sense of the sacred. In the lower level of the church, there are more than 70 chapels with different traditions and cultural characteristics. The participants also visited Professor George

McLean, a renowned philosopher of religion at the Catholic University of America. Professor McLean is also the President of the Council for

Research in Values and Philosophy, which organizes seminars on philosophy in many countries and regions of the world. Professor McLean pointed out to the participants that holiness is the essence of religion; each culture and tradition has a spirit of holiness. He shared that we can pursue the spirit of holiness in our family, community, and society. In other words, we can find the spirit of holiness in our daily lives. Our responsibility is to uncover the spirit of holiness in each culture and share this with other people. The participants were touched by Professor McLean’s universal vision and his heart for the common good of human beings.



With George McLean



Masjid Muhammad

In the afternoon of August 14th, the participants visited the Washington National Cathedral as well as Masjid Muhammad, located in the city of Washington, D.C. The Washington National Cathedral is the sixth-largest cathedral in the world. It is unique in that it is a place where religion and patriotism come together. This particularly can be seen by the state flags and several American flags hanging from the top of the church dome, the funeral and memorial services of the presidents of the United States and the nation’s heroes, and the piece of lunar rock on the Space Window in the south aisle of the Cathedral. After the visit to the Cathedral, the participants visited Masjid Muhammad, a Muslim organization founded in the mid 1930s. Masjid Muhammad was the first mosque built in the nation by grassroots American citizens. The Mosque is not only a religious center but also a social service center providing education, training, and charitable services to the community. In recent years, the Mosque has strived to integrate into mainstream Islam. It has also taken the responsibility of citizenship seriously, making significant contributions to the society and the nation in both public services and the private sector.

The four days in Washington, D.C. were short and intense; the participants learned a lot academically from the seminars on religion, politics, and society, and furthered their understanding of local religious communities through visits to religious sites. These opportunities were very precious and made a perfect conclusion to the third CSSP Summer Training Workshop.

CENTER ON RELIGION AND CHINESE SOCIETY

The 9th Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion



Group Photo



St. John Cathedral



Fung Ying Seen Koon

Co-organized by the Center for the Study of Religion and Chinese Society at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the third and final Summer Institute for Teaching the Sociology of Religion was held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on July 4-10, 2012. The theme of this year's program was "The pedagogy of the social scientific study of religion in the Chinese context." Established scholars who are experienced in teaching such courses in a Chinese society (mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan) were invited to give one or two lectures. They were Shuming Bao of Michigan University China Data Center, Hsing-kuang Chao of Tunghai University in Taiwan, FAN Lizhu of Fudan University, George Hong of Purdue University-Calumet, LI Xiangping of East China Normal University, Duan Lin of National Taiwan University, David Palmer of Hong Kong University, WEI Dedong of Renmin University of China, Fenggang Yang of Purdue University, and Fuk-tsang Ying of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The 25 participants are faculty members in Chinese universities who have been teaching sociology of religion courses at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

The Summer Institute included lectures and discussion sessions. During the lectures, the specially invited speakers gave presentations covering topics such as "Teaching Various Theoretical Schools in the Chinese Cultural Context," "How To Embed Video Materials in the Classroom," "The Design of Field Trips in the Curriculum," "Teaching About Chinese Beliefs Through Case Studies," "Religion and Contemporary Society as an Elective Course," etc. During the participants' presentations and discussions, the participants shared their experiences of successful cases and challenges they had faced in their teaching. The participants greatly benefited from the training sessions and the dynamic interactions among themselves as well as with the invited speakers.

During the Summer Institute, the participants also visited two religious sites: St. John Cathedral, an Anglican church, and Fung Ying Seen Koon, a Daoist temple.



Shuming Bao



Hsing-kuang Chao



FAN Lizhu



George Hong



LI Xiangping



Duan Lin



David Palmer



WEI Dedong



Fenggang Yang



Fuk-tsang Ying

New Visiting Scholars



LI Qiong (January 2013-January 2014)

LI Qiong is Associate Professor in Social and Public Administration School at East China University of Science and Technology in China. She has published more than 30 academic articles in journals such as *Journal of Jianghai*, *Contemporary Religious Studies*, *Journal of Jiangsu Social Science*, *Journal of Southeast Academic*. She has also published ten books including *The Government Management and Boundary Conflicts* (Xinhua Press 2007.11), *Social Order and Social Organization* (Yuelu Press 2011.12), and *Readings on the Sociology of Religion* (Religious Culture Press 2006.1). She has finished more than sixteen research projects, for which she has received honors and awards from the government and the university.



WANG Ling (January 2013-June 2013)

WANG Ling is Associate Senior Journalist at China Business News. She has been a journalist in television and newspapers for 15 years. She covers the news of industry, business, education, and population. She focuses on the research of the population structure and birth control policy of China; the influence of the one-child policy on the family structure, education, and population aging; and the influence of serious abortion on Chinese women and the fertility culture. She has published dozens of reports, such as "Missing Girls," and "The Sample of Low Fertility Rate in Jiangsu Province." Her non-fiction novel, *Pregnancy in Beijing* will be published soon.



HEI Ying (October 2012-August 2013)

HEI Ying is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Minzu University of China (Beijing, China). She received her B.A. in Philosophy at Qufu Normal University (Rizhao, Shandong, China) and her M.A. in Philosophy at Minzu University of China. Her research interest is focused on the Hui people's ethnic and religious identity, especially those scattered over eastern China.



WANG Chao (August 2012-August 2013)

Wang Chao is Assistant Professor in the Northwest Ethnology Center at Shaanxi Normal University in China. His research interests in recent years have included the history and contemporary Islam of the Hui Muslims in China; the problems and actions on religion in China; and the relationship between Islam and Christianity in Northwest China in 1840-1949. He has published more than ten papers in journals such as *Journal of Shaanxi Normal University*, *Overseas Chinese History Studies*, *Religions in China*, and *Muslims in China*. His current projects include "The Acculturation of the Transnational Immigrant in the Mainstream Cultural Background" and "The Social Function and Role of Religion in China."



LU Yuqin (July 2012-July 2013)

LU Yuqin is Professor of History at Yancheng Teachers University in China. She has published more than 20 academic articles in *Journal of Historical Science*, *Jianghai Academic Journal*, *Journal of Fujian Normal University*, *Jiangxi Social Sciences*, *History Teaching and Research*, etc. She has also published two books: *The Academic Succession Between Qian Mu and His Students* (Guangdong Education Press 2007.1) and *Study on the Execution of the Five Ministers in the 1900-Incident* (China Social Sciences Press 2010.3). She has finished more than five research projects, for which she has received honors and awards from the government and university.



NIE Hongping (June 2012-June 2013)

NIE Hongping is Associate Professor in the School of History and Culture at Lanzhou University in China. He is also a fellow of the Research Centre for Religion and Culture at Lanzhou University. His research interests include the Northwest Frontier Nationalities of the Qing Dynasty and Contemporary Christianity in Northwest China. He has published more than ten papers in *Journal of Lanzhou University*, *The Western Regions Studies*, *China's Borderland History and Geography Studies*, *China Tibetology*, etc. His current projects are Religious Dialogue and the Society of Northwest China, as well as a study on the Distinguished Families of Uygur in the Qing Dynasty.

Website:

<http://www.purdue.edu/CRCS>

This website has been developed into a center of information and resources on Chinese religion, spirituality, and society. It includes an archive of government documents, scholarly articles, and short essays on Chinese spirituality, religion, and society.

Center on Religion and Chinese Society

Director
Fenggang Yang

Project Manager
Lily Szeto

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Stone Hall, Room 347
700 W. State Street
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Phone: 765-494-5801
Fax: 765-494-6938
Email: crs@purdue.edu
www.purdue.edu/crcs

Some Thoughts during My Visit to Purdue

Rui Huang
Minzu University of China

In retrospect, my visit to Purdue University offered me a great opportunity for contemplation and reflection. During the extensive period of free time without the distraction of entertainment or the burden of routine work, my mind was free to indulge in continuous contemplation on things, issues, and people. After I graduated from college, my increasing responsibilities have made me more worldly-wise, but less contemplative. The life at Purdue gave me an opportunity to become focused on my thoughts. As the self becomes the object of contemplation, one gets a great opportunity to engage in self-reflection. While Christians stress repentance, Confucians underscore self-reflection, which leads to more opportunities in the future.



The most important mission of my visit to Purdue University is to study. The study content includes my discipline and the society. During this period of study and the daily interactions with Americans, I have gained a deeper understanding of their life, work, and thinking. I have also gained a basic and direct understanding of the system of higher education in the United States through participation in lectures with undergraduate and graduate students. I have learned to communicate cross-culturally; I have learned how to teach using interactive techniques. Also, I have learned the importance of building a relationship on an equal basis with students. From the daily life and study, I have become aware of the differences between China and the United States in history, culture, and heritage. I have been able to understand my society and myself more clearly and rationally in the contradistinction.

During the summer, I attended the summer research workshop organized by the Center on Religion and Chinese Society and had the opportunity to learn the methodology of social scientific study. I have approached this methodology of the social scientific study in mainland China before as some of my teachers were trained in the West; however, this was the first time I was able to approach it systemically and comprehensively. Through the lectures by Professor Fenggang Yang and other renowned scholars in the field, I have a completely different view of the value of paper publishing. I have gained a “sense of awe” about the true “valuable” research. Through the summer workshop, I have gained some understanding of the cutting-edge issues in the field of social sciences in China, and I have truly experienced the rigorous attitude and the spirit of “truth seeking” of the scholars who gave us lectures.

I am very thankful for this experience. I am also very grateful for the hospitality of Professor Yang, Joanne He, and Lily Szeto from the Center on Religion and Chinese Society. I am also thankful for the financial support from my university and my country and for all the people I have met during my visit. This is an experience that definitely will have an indelible influence on my life. I expect that the Center on Religion and Chinese Society will prosper more brilliantly under the leadership of Professor Fenggang Yang.