



Yale MACMILLAN CENTER
Council on East Asian Studies

International Workshop

“Miraculous Images in Global Perspectives”

Centre Paul Langevin, Aussois, France
20-23 June 2022

Organized by : Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (UMR 8582, EPHE/PSL-CNRS, France) ; University of Virginia (USA); Yale MacMillan Center (USA)

Format: Centre CAES d’Aussois, France and videoconference

To attend the online event, please write to: 21600340@etu.ephe.fr

Argument:

Images are ubiquitous in the world’s religious traditions—even in those traditions in which their creation and veneration have been highly circumscribed or entirely banned. They can serve as objects or expressions of devotion, as pedagogical instruments, as markers of class or status, and as aesthetic productions in their own right. But not all images are held to be equal. In “Miraculous Images in Global Perspective,” we seek to examine in cross-cultural perspective the phenomenon of images that possess supramundane powers or abilities: to perform miracles, emit light, sweat, bleed, move about, heal, protect and at times even to destroy. We seek to shed new light on the nature of materiality, of religious devotion, and of the transmission of ideas and objects within and between cultures and traditions.

The conference will address four key interrelated questions: What is a miraculous image? How is knowledge of miraculous images transmitted? How are miraculous images experienced and used? And who authenticates and regulates these miraculous images?

Tuesday 21 June

9:15: OPENING

Panel 1 - 9:30-11:50 PM

Chair/Discussant: Isabelle Charleux

9:30-10:40 Panel 1a – Categories, Conceptualizations, Ontologies

Megan Holmes (University of Michigan), “The ‘Miraculous Image’ Across Cultures”

Laurel Kendall (American Museum of Natural History/Columbia University) and **Ni Wayan Pasek Ariati** (School for International Training program for Indonesia), “Miraculous or Ordinarily Agentive? A Balinese Temple Mask”

Discussion

10 min. pause

10:50-11:50 Panel 1b – Identity, Authenticity, Authority

Nicolas Balzamo (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland), “*Locus et Imago*: Some Thoughts on the Relationship Between Miraculous Images and the Place of Their Veneration (Western Europe, 11th-17th centuries)”

Dorothy Wong (University of Virginia), “First Images of the Buddha: the Case of Udayana Buddha Statues”

Discussion

12h15: Lunch

Panel 2 - 1:30-3:50 PM

Chair/Discussant: Dorothy Wong

1:30-2:40 Panel 2a –Witness and Tale

Isabelle Charleux (CNRS/GSRL), “The Power of Place: Miraculous Statues and Apparitions at a Buddhist Pilgrimage Site – Wutai Shan in China”

Amy Ogden (University of Virginia), “Smashing Idols and Abusing Icons in Old French Miracle Narratives”

Discussion

10 min. pause

2:50-3:50 Panel 2b – Portrait Likeness and Cult

Julia K. Murray (University of Wisconsin), “Miraculous Portraits of Confucius”

Cantaura La Cruz (EPHE/GSRL), "From Penicillin to Ointment of Dr. José Gregorio Hernandez. Miraculous Images of the Saint under Construction in Contemporary Venezuela"

Discussion

3:50-4:15 Coffee break

Panel 3 - 4:15-5:25 PM – Materiality, Animacy, Activation

Chair/Discussant: Megan Holmes

Samuel C. Morse (Amherst College), "'Living' Images of Amida in the Late Kamakura Period"

Murad Khan Mumtaz (Williams College), "Beseeching the Friends of God: Tipu Sultan's Album of Saints"

Discussion

Day 1 Conclusion (15 min.)

Wednesday 22 June

Panel 4 - 9:30-11:50 PM

Chair/Discussant: Julia Murray

9:30-10:40 Panel 4a – Power of Place and Pilgrimage

Janice Leoshko (UT Austin), "The Power of Place in Defining the Miraculous: The Case of Vajrāsana in India"

Charlotte Lamotte (Centre d'Anthropologie Sociale, Université de Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès), "Images and Objects of Worship in a Japanese Pilgrimage Town: The 'New Shikoku' of Sasaguri, Fukuoka, Japan"

Discussion

10 min. pause

10:50-11:50 Panel 4b – Political Entanglements

Youn-mi Kim (Ewha Womans University Seoul), "Should We Punish Sweating Buddhas? Discourses Surrounding the Miraculous Statues in Chosŏn Korea"

Justin Greenlee (Kenyon College), "The Reliquary Head of Saint Andrew and the Preservation of the Morea"

Discussion

12h15: Lunch

Panel 5 - 1:30-3:05 PM – Beyond Anthropomorphism and Figuration

Chair/Discussant: Laurel Kendall

Mimi Yiengpruksawan (Yale University), “Sekidera’s Shiny Black Ox: A Miraculous Image from the Animal Realm in Medieval Japan”

Lei Yang (INALCO), “The Sound of Miracles? Stories of the Underground Bells in Late 18th Century Beijing”

Valeria Gazizova (DAAD-GSRL), “Powerful objects, numinous places and distribution of the miraculous: Strategies of religious continuity in a post-atheist context (a case of Kalmykia)”

Discussion

3:05-3:30 *Coffee break*

Panel 6 - 3:45-5:00 PM – Veneration, Temporality, Modernity

Chair/Discussant: Amy Ogden

Pierre-Antoine Fabre (Césor, Paris), « La fresque de Saint Gilles dans l'église Saint-Nicolas de Civray : image miraculée, image d'un miracle, image miraculeuse ? »

Jeanne Kormina (Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg), “‘The Cup That Cannot Be Emptied’: On Social Life of One Holy Icon in Eastern Christianity”

Discussion

10 min. pause

5:10-6:00 **Closing Discussion**

Scientific committee: Isabelle Charleux, Megan Holmes, Laurel Kendall, Julia Murray, Amy Ogden, Dorothy Wong, Mimi Yiengpruksawan

Logistics & translation:

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