





The Mazu Cult Past and Present of a Chinese Folk Religion

The workshop on the Mazu Cult is focused on the roots and histo-rical development of the Mazu Cult, an influential Chinese folk reli-gion that is still vibrant in East Asia and beyond. In four sessions, it will introduce the participants in short interactive presentations to historical sources and contemporary documentations alike. Leaving enough room for joint discussions and critical exchange of opinions regarding the Chinese concepts of a guardian deity and, if reques-ted, some reading of original Chinese sources. The workshop will be held in English and all levels of Chinese are welcome.

Session 1:

Early veneration, a "gods and monster" novel from the Ming dynas-ty, prominent Mazu temples and related festivals in Fujian.

Session 2:

From Fujian to Taiwan, war heroine against invaders, goddess of maritime safety and protection, goddess of childbirth, etc.

Session 3:

Temple communities in Taiwan, local elites and entrepreneurs, Mazu pilgrimages in Taiwan and Fujian.

Session 4:

Mazu's miracles, a comparison with Sainte Anne de Bretagne, Mazu's cultural significance and politicization.

