

COLLOQUIUM BY JAMES MILLER

CHINA'S GREEN RELIGION: DAOISM AND THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2017

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

China's Green Religion: Daoism and the Quest for a Sustainable Future

Speaker: James Miller, Professor of Chinese studies, Queen's University, Canada

ABSTRACT:

This talk summarizes four insights from my new book: a vision of nature as a subjective power that informs human life; an anthropological idea of the porous body based on a sense of qi flowing through landscapes and human beings; a tradition of knowing founded on the experience of transformative power in specific landscapes and topographies; and an aesthetic and moral sensibility based on an affective sensitivity to how the world pervades the body and the body pervades the world. The paper concludes by arguing for the relevance of these insights for contemporary environmentalism. Rather than promoting a quasi-Christian concept of "saving the earth" environmentalists should integrate nature and culture more seamlessly, cultivating through a contemporary intellectual vocabulary a compelling vision of how the earth materially and spiritually supports human flourishing.

BIO:

James Miller is professor of Chinese studies and director of the interdisciplinary graduate program in cultural studies at Queen's University in Canada. He is the author of *The Way of Highest Clarity* (2008) and *Daoism: A Beginner's Guide* (2008) and the editor of *Chinese Religions in Contemporary Societies* (2006), *Religion and Ecological Sustainability in China* (2014), and *Daoism and Ecology* (2001).

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