

# FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF CHINESE RELIGIOUS PUBLISHING SIXTEENTH TO TWENTY-FIRST CENTURIES

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
PARIS 19-20 JUNE 2026 (CAMPUS CONDORCET)



# Five Hundred Years of Chinese Religious Publishing, Sixteenth to Twenty-First Centuries

An international conference,  
Paris 19-20 June 2026  
(Campus Condorcet)

## Summary

As a conclusion to the three-year research project “Religious Text Production and Identity Formation in China, 17th to 21st Centuries” funded by ANR and DFG (2023-2026), and taking stock of the rapid development of the open-access database CRTA.info, we organize a two-day conference in Paris to present and discuss new work on the modern history of publishing religious books in the Chinese world.

Much new work has been done since the publication over ten years ago of Philip Clart and Gregory A. Scott’s edited volume *Religious Publishing and Print Culture in Modern China, 1800–2012* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015). We aim to prepare a new edited volume (to appear in 2027 or 2028) that will reflect the state of knowledge in the history of religious publishing in the Chinese worlds, across technological revolutions—from woodblock printing to the mechanical press to the Internet—and sociopolitical changes.

The papers presented during the conference address different time periods over the five centuries covered by the project, and a large variety of religious traditions, genres, and parts of the Chinese world. We especially invited contributions that deal with newly available sources and engage with print culture (edition, production, diffusion) and the impact of religious texts.

## Organizing committee

Vincent Goossaert  
Philip Clart

# Schedule :

## Friday 19 june

Salle 0.010, bâtiment de recherche Nord,  
campus Condorcet

9:30 - Opening : *Philip Clart & Vincent Goossaert*

### **Session 1: The Circulation of Texts between Religious, Medical and Literary Genres**

Chair: *Sylvie Hureau*

9:40 *Katherine Alexander*: “Admonitions Across the Empire: Quanjie lu Prints and Reprints in the late Qing”

10:10 *Lan Yangyang*: “Medical Prescriptions (*fang*方) in Chinese Religious Texts: A Cross-Textual Study Based on the CRTA Database (Pre-1949)”

10:40 *Vincent Durand-Dastès*: “Narrative, Therapy and Exorcism: The Religious Echoes of the Peach Blossom Girl Tale in Late Imperial Publishing”

11:10 *Pan Junliang*: “Textual Legitimacy: The Rui’an Taoist Association and the Construction of Religious Authority in Wenzhou”

11:40 discussion

*12:15-13:30 lunch break*

### **Session 2: Defining and Analyzing Large Corpora**

Chair: *Katherine Alexander*

13:30 *Cao Xinyu*: “Lyric Tunes and the Chronology of the Precious Scrolls”

14:00 *Gregory Scott*: “Buddhist Book Catalogues in Republican China: Data, Narratives, and Networks”

14:30 *Vincent Goossaert*: “A Quantitative Survey of Spirit-Writing Altars, Gods, and Book Production, 1100-1950”

15:00 Discussion

*15:30 Coffee break*

### **Session 3: Creating New Authoritative Texts**

Chair: *Gregory Scott*

16:00 *Matthias Schumann*: “Redemptive Societies and Scripture Production in Republican China: The Case of the Jiushi xinjiao’s 救世新教 *True Scripture to Save the World*”

16:30 *Carsten Krause*: “Zhao Puchu and His Introductory Work to Chinese Buddhism: On the Dynamic Publication History of an Influential Text and its Context in Contemporary China”

17:00 Discussion

# Schedule :

## Saturday 20 june

Salle 100, Centre de colloques,  
campus Condorcet

### Session 4: Canonization and Contestation

Chair: *Daniela Campo*

10:00 *Hu Jiechen*: “Between the Daoist Canon and the Wenchang Canon: Wenchang Collections in Three Hundred Years (1445-1745)”

10:30 *Nikolas Broy* (online): “On the Fringes or Beyond? Sectarian Texts and Spirit-Writings in the Buddhist Manji Canon 卍字續藏 (1905-1912)”

11:00 *Su Shi-Yu*: “Building Communal Pathways to Amitābha’s Pure Land in the Sahā World: Text, Organization, and Practice in the Snow Heart Cultural and Educational Foundation”

11:30 *Ji Zhe*: “Competing Authorities, Competing Texts: Controversies over the *Sūtra of Infinite Life* at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century in China”

12:00 Discussion

*12:30-14:00 lunch break*

### Session 5: Ongoing Projects

Chair: *Philip Clart*

14:00 *Daniel Burton-Rose & Hu Jiechen*: Qing Dynasty and Republican Period Religious Texts Scanning Initiative

14:20 Recent developments in CRTA

14:40 Discussion

*15:00 Coffee break*

### Session 6: Morality and Authority: Who can Publish What, How, and for Whom?

Chair: *Cao Xinyu*

15:30 *Daniel Burton-Rose*: “Diffuse Authority: Editorial Agency and Publishing Patterns of *The Must-Read Works of Optimi and Grand Secretaries*, 1800–1900”

16:00 *Yu Lu*: “Negotiating Credibility for Circulation: How a Ghost Gained Legitimacy and Preached Sexual Morality in an 1887 Spirit-Writing Cult”

16:30 *Elena Valussi*: “Female Morality and Self-Cultivation Texts Published in the South-west Region in the late Qing and Republican Period”

17:00 *Philip Clart*: “The Gods on Line: Spirit-Writing and Social Media”

17:30 Discussion

*18:00 End of the conference*