

2-3 July 2026 | 9:30 – 17:00

Institut Confucius

266A, route de Lausanne, 1292 Pregny-Chambésy

Ethical norms, agricultural practices and nature spirits

China and other worlds compared

An international conference
at the Confucius Institute

Under the scientific direction of **Prof. Vincent Goossaert**, EPHE-PSL

Free admission
Limited seats
Registration by 26 June
ic@unige.ch



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INSTITUT CONFUCIUS



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

PROGRAM

Thursday 2 July 2026

9:30 Welcome

Vincent Goossaert, EPHE-PSL

Jing (Cathy) Zhang, Renmin University of China

10:00-13:00: Panel 1 - Nature spirits

Chair: Zhang Ling, University of Cambridge

Daniel Burton-Rose, Wenzhou-Kean University, *Buddho-Daoist Ritual as a Cultural Matrix for Biological Homogenization: Agricultural Deities in Ritual Manuscripts from Southwestern China*

Nicolas Meylan, Université de Genève, *The Spirits of the Land in Medieval Iceland. Constructing a Cultural Polity*

James Robson, Harvard University, *Gilded Gods: Guild Cults, the Natural World, and the Regulation of Occupations*

Vincent Goossaert, EPHE-PSL, *Walking Pilgrims and Mountain Environments in Late Imperial China*

14:00-17:00: Panel 2 - Trees and Plants

Chair: Aidan Russell, Geneva Graduate Institute

Johan Rols, GSRL & CRCAO, Paris, *Empirically Derived Ritual: How Prohibitions on Tree-Cutting Illustrate Relations Between Sacred Cosmology and Empiric Knowledge*

Blandine Ripert, CNRS, *Negotiating with the Invisible: Tamang ritual practices (Nepal), Agriculture, and Transformations of Norms*

Chen Ming-zong, EHESS, *The Making of Forest Rights: Forms of Resource Association and Access Conflicts in the Qingshui River Basin, 18th–19th Century*

Jan Kiely, Geneva Graduate Institute, *Sacred Trees in the Modern History of the Huaihai Region*

Friday 3 July 2026

9:30-12:30: Panel 3 - Environmental systemic change and crises

Chair: Isabelle Charleux, CNRS, CRCAO

Victor Wright, Peking University & EHESS, *Navigating Uncertain Waters. From fisherman to environmental volunteer on Lake Poyang in China*

Barbara Ambros, University of North Carolina, *Calamity and Compassion: Environmental Crisis and Cattle Sanctuaries in Nineteenth-Century Japan*

Zhang Ling, University of Cambridge, David Mozina, University of Cambridge, *Salvation from Apocalyptic Disasters during China's Early Medieval Climate Anomaly*

Mark Meulenbeld, Hong Kong University, *The rituals of "opening the mountain" 開山 among the Yao in Northern Thailand*

14:00-16:30: Panel 4 - Animals

Chair: Ling Minhua, Geneva Graduate Institute

Bai Zhaojie, Minzu University of China, *The Ethical Dilemma of "Releasing Lives" in Contemporary Chinese Religion* (online)

Florence Galmiche, Université Paris Cité, *Cattle and Poultry in Amida's Pure Land? Praying for the souls of farm animals in South Korean Buddhism*

Laura Boyer, EHESS, *Animal Release Practices in Late Imperial China: A Comparison of Normative Regulations and Ritual Liturgy*