



KONFUZIUS-INSTITUT LEIPZIG

莱比锡孔子学院

Der Ort für chinesische Sprache und Kultur

Eintritt frei

SINOLOGISCHE VORTRAGSREIHE:

Freunde aus der Ferne

Mo, 20. Nov 2017, 18 Uhr

The Significance of Wenzhou's

“Ritual Economy”

in China's Capitalism and Globalization

Prof. Dr. Mayfair Yang (University of California)

The lecture takes up calls by J.K. Gibson-Graham and other theorists to challenge the monolithic construction of “capitalocentrism.” Many scholars understand that Chinese state capitalism diverges in structure and operating principles from Western liberal capitalism, and even differs from the model of “East Asian Developmental State.” Few have examined how pre-capitalist forms of economic practice are uneasily incorporated within the Chinese state capitalist economy, where they continue to operate according to non-capitalist or even anti-capitalist principles, such as kinship ethics, divine and ritual debt-economies, and communal interests, even while they are also penetrated by capitalism. Based on fieldwork in rural and small-town Wenzhou on the coast of southeastern China, Professor Yang will examine what she calls a “ritual economy” of religious and kinship expenditures that harken back to pre-industrial commercial economies in imperial China. Today's “ritual economy” traces back to the Song Dynasty, when Chinese popular religions and an indigenous market economy developed in tandem. This past extends its dynamic force to the present era of religious resurgence and China's entry into global capitalism.