UCSB Confucius Institute Presents a Free Lecture 聖塔芭芭拉加州大學孔子学院講演

Christianity in Contemporary China



Lecture by Associate Prof. Yanfei Sun Sociology Department, Zhejiang University Visiting Associate Professor, Harvard University

Wed January 13, 2016 @ 5:00-6:30 pm 3041 HSSB

Based on fieldwork in Southeast China, this talk will address the explosive growth of Christianity, especially Protestantism, in post-Mao China. I identify six institutional features that are vital to the religion's rapid growth. These institutional features of Chinese Protestantism can either facilitate or impede the development of the religion, depending on the sociopolitical context. Protestantism's phenomenal growth owes much to the Maoist state's social engineering, which dissolved entrenched local cultural resistance to Christianity. The market reforms also created congenial conditions. This talk will also compare the growth trajectory of Catholicism with Protestantism.

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