

Migrating Gods: A Case Study of the City God Worship in Anxi, China and Singapore

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Abstract: This paper, based on fieldwork in China and Singapore, explores ideas of power in Chinese religion. Using the case study of the City God cult in Anxi China, and the subsequent “fen sheng” of the deity to Singapore, it examines how the Chinese dichotomizes the concept of bounded versus unbounded power, centered versus decentered power, whole versus divisible power, natural versus extension power. The paper also explores the belief in the ability to transfer religious power in Chinese society, the homology between the world of spirits and men, and the interrelation between religious power and state power. As many adherents from Singapore make annual pilgrimages from the Singapore temple to the main temple in China, the paper also explores ideas regarding pilgrimages.

Prof. Tong Chee-Kiong is Visiting Professor at the Department of Public and International Affairs. He has held various appointments including Special Academic Advisor, Chair Professor and Director of the Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam as well as Dean and Professor of Sociology in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore. His research focus on the Chinese in Southeast Asia, Comparative Religions, Religion and Public Policy and Asian Business Networks. His book publications include *Chinese Death Rituals* (Routledge, 2004), *Rationalizing Religion* (Brill, 2007), *Identity and Ethnic Relations in Southeast Asia* (Springer, 2010) and *Chinese Business* (Springer, 2014). Chee Kiong has also published papers in the *British Journal of Sociology*, *International Migration Review*, *Asian Ethnicities*, *Diaspora*, *International Sociology*, and *Journal of Asian Business*.



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4:00-5:30 PM (HKT)

Room Y5-304
5/F, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building,
City University of Hong Kong

How to attend this seminar:

Via Zoom
<https://rb.gv/k098mb>
Passcode: 840855

or in-person (pre-registration and visitor QR code
are needed):
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After registering, you will receive a confirmation
email containing information about the seminar.



All are welcome

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