



Eric Vanden Bussche (front left)

Mr. Vanden Bussche observed that when the China-Burma border was being drawn, the Qing government handled the demarcation process almost entirely through its embassy in London, with little intervention from the imperial court in Beijing. He also described how the Qing negotiators in London reinterpreted traditional notions of sovereignty and applications of international law to initiate discussion on spatial fields. This also changed the definition of border areas among Yunnan Provincial officials and local officials and the exercise of sovereignty.

2012.09.11

The CCS and College of International Studies and Education for Overseas Chinese at Taiwan Normal University jointly held the first session of the 2012 Lecture Series on Cross-cultural Perspectives of Confucian Ethics. Professor Thomas Fröhlich from the Department of Sinology at Germany's University of Erlangen-Nuremberg presented a lecture on "Conquering Modernity with Confucianism: Tang Junyi's Vision of a Future China."



Professor Thomas Fröhlich (center)

Professor Fröhlich considered the historical and intellectual context of Tang Junyi's application of concepts like "civil theology" and "civil religion" and noted that contemporary critics of Tang Junyi miss a crucial point. He observed that Tang was keenly aware of the danger that Confucianism might engender that of being reduced to a "profane utilitarianism and positivism" which in turn might readily be turned into dogmatism by the hands of those in power. Professor Fröhlich also questioned whether modern Confucianism nourishes the individual's delusion of a modernity which fully submits to the ethical will of human agency, and thus exaggerates the role of human agency in a process which is, at least partially, characterized by developments outside the immediate reach of an ethical will.

2012.10.01

The CCS held the World Sinology Symposium on October 1. Professor Barend. J. ter Haar of the Sinological Institute at Leiden University in the Netherlands presented a lecture entitled, "Where are China's Witches" Professor ter Haar noted that China has a long tradition of witches (including shamans and mediums) but this tradition has been