

當代中國大陸的基督教研究—
對基督教身份之想像的挑戰
Christian Studies in Contemporary
Mainland China

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Abstract

This article firstly points out from the history of Chinese Christianity that discovering truth is always one of the objectives in theology of mission, and intellectuals have been playing a critical role in the process. Then it articulates the difficulties encountered by the institutional church in Mainland China when it enters the public sphere since the latter half of the 20th century. Under this modern social political situation, Sino-Christian theology has emerged and exhibits its academic and interdisciplinary characters, which provides a breakthrough for some of the problems encountered by the church. It has been growing gradually in Mainland academia, and nourishes different generations of scholars that may not be members of the church with traditional confession. However, as it is a collective phenomenon, it seems to have produced some characters of a community of “faith.” This kind of faith must be understood from the perspective of modern social transformation, and involves an intellectual community which is similar to the traditional Confucianism. Therefore, Sino-Christian theology assembles a kind of indigenized “faith” and challenges the imagination of traditional Christian identity.

Keywords: Mainland China, Christian Studies, Sino-Christian Theology, Intellectual, Faith, Interdisciplinary Studies

摘要

本文首先從一個宏觀的中國基督教歷史向度，指出發現真理從來是宣教神學的一種目的，並知識分子在其中的重要角色；繼而勾畫出二十世紀下半期中國大陸建制教會在公共空間中遭遇到的難處，並在學術界中出現的漢語神學可以作出的突破。在深受現代政治社會背景影響之下，漢語神學因此展現出其學術性和跨學科研究特色，並在中國大陸文化和教育體制中漸漸成長，培育出一代接一代的學人。從這視野中我們可以理解，漢語神學能吸引許多非傳統認信者參與的原因，又彷彿呈現出一種具群體性的「信仰」特徵。這種「信仰」現象除了要從現代性變遷去了解外，更可能在不自覺中形成了一種與儒家相類近的知識共同體，成爲一種甚具本土形式的「信仰」，挑戰著傳統基督教身分之想像。

關鍵詞：中國大陸、基督教研究、漢語神學、知識分子、信仰、跨學科研究