Research Seminar

‘Chinese Religiosities: Afflictions of Modernity and State Formation’.

By: Professor Mayfair Yang, Director of Asian Studies, University of Sydney

Professor Yang will discuss the book ‘Chinese Religiosities: Afflictions of Modernity and State Formation’ at the seminar. The long 20th century in China and Taiwan has seen both a dramatic process of state-driven secularization and modernization and a vigorous revival of contemporary religious life. Chinese Religiosities explores the often vexed relationship between the modern Chinese state and religious practice. The essays in this comprehensive, multidisciplinary collection cover a wide range of traditions, including Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, Confucianism, Protestantism, Falungong, popular religion, and redemptive societies.

Professor Mayfair Yang is Director of Asian Studies, University of Sydney, Australia, and Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Languages and Cultures at U.C. Santa Barbara. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology at U.C. Berkeley. She specializes in the anthropology of religion, modernity, the state and politics, gender, media, and China studies. She is the author of the book Gifts, Favors, and Banquets: the Art of Social Relationships in China (1994), which won an American Ethnological Society prize, and the editor of Chinese Religiosities: Afflictions of Modernity and State Formation (2008), and Spaces of Their Own: Women’s Public Sphere in Transnational China (1999). She has produced two documentaries: Through Chinese Women’s Eyes (distributed by Women Make Movies) and Public and Private Realms in Rural Wenzhou, China. She has received residential fellowships at the University of Michigan, University of Chicago, Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, and the Center for Study of World Religion, Harvard University. Her book in-progress is: Re-enchanting Modernity: Sovereignty, Popular Religion, and Indigenous Civil Order in Coastal China.

Please visit the following links for audio podcast and webcast:
- Council on Foreign Relations (USA): http://www.cfr.org/publication/16385/symposium_on_religion_and_the_future_of_china.html?breadcrumb=%2Fregion%2Fpublication_list%3Fgroupby%3D3%26id%3D271%26filter%3D2008%26page%3D2

Thursday 9 April 2009
N16 Room 1.22
Nathan campus
12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Natasha Vary on (07) 3735 5322 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 7 April 2009