



*Distinguished Professors Public Lecture Series*

## **Traditional China: Rational or Superstitious? Two Western Narratives and a Possible Answer**

### **迷信或理性？從不同西方觀點看傳統中國**



#### **Professor Michael Lackner**

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Sinologist and Chinese historian, Director of the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities, Professor and Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany. He received his PhD in Chinese Studies from Ludwig—Maximilians University, Munich in 1985. Professor Lackner has a wide range of interests covering Song Chinese history, Chinese prognostication, Chinese language and literature. He speaks fluent Putonghua and several other European languages.

#### **Abstract**

The first part of this talk introduces two Western master narratives on China: one – prevalent during the Enlightenment – that depicts China as the motherland of rationality and another, “modern” one, which regards China as the stronghold of retarded superstition. In the second part, the speaker will try to analyze the position of the compiler of *Siku quanshu* 四庫全書, Ji Yun 紀昀 (Ji Xiaolan 紀曉嵐) vis-à-vis mantic practices. His analyses of Chinese traditional ways of prediction shall shed some light on the limitations of our current understanding of “rationality” and “superstition”.

#### **Lecture Details**

Date: 24 March 2017 (Friday)

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Venue: E0311, 3/F, OUHK Jockey Club Campus

Address: 81 Chung Hau Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon

**\*\* This lecture will be conducted in English \*\***

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All are welcome

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