

# Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong The Centre for Comparative and Public Law

*Interdisciplinarity and Law Seminar Series*

## *State-Church Relationships in Reform China: A Retrospect after 30 Years*

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**Monday, 23 March 2009, 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Room 303, 3/F KK Leung Building, HKU**

The Third Plenum of the 11<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in December 1978 marked the advent of reform and opening in China. During the past 30 years, the socialist economy of China has been turned upside down. Although reform and opening have been mainly expressed in the economic sphere, economic reform could not help but have a profound impact on other aspects of the society. On one hand, the ruling CPC turned from the political messianism of the era of Mao Zedong to rationalism and pragmatism, and the de-ideologization process in the intellectual realm eventually lead to the new prospects of intellectual freedom. On the other hand, China gradually threw off the shackles of a politicized society, while the relationship between the Party-State and society underwent a complicated restructuring and reestablishment. No one should doubt that such transformations have had a fundamental impact in the religious sphere. This presentation will explore and review the church-state relationships in Reform China, particularly focusing on the following two aspects: relations between the Party-state and religion, between Party-state and the religious organizations.

**Fuk-tsang Ying** is an Associate Professor of Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He specializes in history of Christianity in China and Hong Kong, Protestant Christianity in socialist China, state-church relation in contemporary China. His major publications on state-church relation include: "New Wine in Old Wineskins: An Appraisal of Religious Legislation in China and the Regulations on Religious Affairs of 2005," *Religion, State & Society* 34:4 (Dec. 2006): 347-373; "Mutual Adaptation to Socialism: Three-Self Patriotic Movement and Church-state Relations," *Concilium* 2008:2, 71-87; *Church-state Relations in Contemporary China* (1997, in Chinese).

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