

Beijing, China, May 23-25, 2012

Humanity and Difference in the Global Age

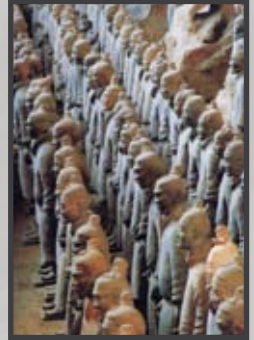
XXV Conference of the Academy of Latinity

In cooperation with Tsinghua University

HUMANITY AND DIFFERENCE IN THE GLOBAL AGE

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Centered on the theme "Humanity and Difference in the Global Age," the Beijing Conference allowed for a level of response in itself elucidative of this limit-question of our days, implying as well the loss of the universals for the understanding of the so-called contemporaneity as a plunge into the discourse of the fracture of the social times in the universe of the assertion of identities released from the western general horizon.

With China as scenery, the critical consciousness of multiculturalism becomes more acute in the face of a new questioning on the emergent subjectivity. From the beginning, we proceed to the search of these extreme conditions in which the task of social recognition will require the heuristic of what could be the very idea of globalization.

As a final awareness regarding the inner meaning of difference nowadays, the conference asks about the real dimension of technology as indeed one of an ontological nature in strict relation to what we call "Being," truth or value.

Living a historical momentum, so far from our beliefs at the turn of the century, the search still for a dialogue in the verge of a "war of religions" outstretches even an epistemological framework, bound by the concern of human rights far beyond a "western ideology."

PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 23

9:30 am — Opening Ceremony

- Jorge Sampaio — *United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (video)*
- Federico Mayor — *President of the Academy of Latinity (video)*
- Xie Weihe — *Vice President for the Humanities and Social Sciences / Tsinghua University*
- Candido Mendes — *Secretary-General of the Academy of Latinity*

10:50 am — First Session

Occidentalism and Post-Occidentalism

- Wang Ning — *Cultural translation and multicentric modernities*
- Walter D. Mignolo — *The role of BRICS countries in the becoming world order: "humanity," colonial/imperial differences, and the racial distribution of capital and knowledge*
- Helena Barroco — *The UN Alliance of Civilizations' perspective in our age of diversity*

3:00 pm — Second Session

Technology and World Civilization

- Gianni Vattimo — *The question concerning technology today*
- Lydia H. Liu — *The Freudian robot: rethinking the human and the machine*
- He Xirong — *A contemporary significance on Chinese traditional mode of thinking*

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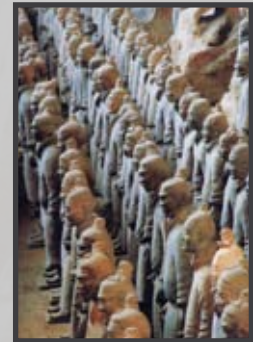
XXV Conference of the
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Thursday, May 24

9:00 am — Third Session

Reinventions and Interactions

- Candido Mendes — *A humanism for our time*
- Tong Shijun — *A whole new hope: a discussion 90 years after Bertrand Russell's 'The problem of China'*
- Daniel Innerarity — *Politics after indignation*
- Santiago Zabala — *The only emergency is the lack of events*



2:30 pm — Fourth Session

Spaces of Difference — Part I

- François L'Yvonnet — *The European "self-closure"*
- Jérôme Bindé — *Identity and difference beyond fundamentalism and globalization*
- Maria Isabel Mendes de Almeida — *Contemporary creativity and the redesigning of the relationship between author and work: the exhaustion of the creative outburst*
- Yang Huilin — *The verbal logic of identity*

5:30 pm — Fifth Session

Spaces of Difference — Part II

- Susan Buck-Morss — *Seeing global*
- Si Han — *Meeting of cultures in images and art*
- Mario Lucio Sousa — *Creole humanism in Africa*

Friday, May 25

9:00 am — Sixth Session

Mapping the Global Age — Part I

- Enrique Rodríguez Larreta — *The present point in history: reflections on a transitional age*
- Renato Janine Ribeiro — *Brazil and the emergence of the South*
- Gilbert Hottois — *Science and technology: from modern to postmodern representations*
- Javier Sanjinés C. — *Mariátegui and the Andean revolutionarism*

2:30 pm — Seventh Session

Mapping the Global Age — Part II

- Zhang Longxi — *Lessons from Mont Lu: China and cross-cultural understanding*
- Gerardo Caetano — *"Small" countries and "large" countries: the case of Uruguay in Mercosur and Unasur*
- Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães — *The South and the world*
- Yang Guorong — *Virtue in human practice: a comparative perspective*

PARTICIPANTS

- Candido Mendes** — President of Candido Mendes University, President of the Rio de Janeiro Forum of Rectors, member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, Secretary General of the Academy of Latinity, member of the Economic and Social Development Council to the Presidency of Brazil, President of the Senior Board of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and Alliance of Civilizations Ambassador. He was also Secretary-General of the Brazilian Justice and Peace Commission and President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). Among his most recent books are *A presidência afortunada* (1999), *Lula: a opção mais que o voto* (2002), *Lula depois de Lula* (2005), *Lula apesar de Lula* (2006), *Dr. Alceu, da 'persona' à pessoa* (2009), and *Subcultura e mudança: por que me envergonho do meu país* (2010).
- Daniel Innerarity** — Professor of Political and Social Philosophy and Ikerbasque researcher at the University of the Basque Country. Visiting Professor at the European University Institute (Florence). His latest books include *The ethics of hospitality, the transformation of politics* (3rd Miguel de Unamuno Essay Prize and 2003 National Literature Prize in the Essay category), *The Invisible Society* (21st Espasa Essay Prize), *The new public realm, the future and its enemies, and Knowledge's democracy*.
- Enrique Rodríguez Larreta** — Director of the Cultural Pluralism Institute at Candido Mendes University. His writings include *Gold is illusion* (2003), *Gilberto Freyre e a sociologia crítica* (2001), *Collective imagination limits and beyond* (2001), *Identity and difference in the global era* (2002), *Reality / simulacra / artificial ontologies of postmodernity* (2006), and *Subjectivity at the threshold of the digital culture: the self in network* (2007). He is co-author, with Guillermo Giucci, of *Gilberto Freyre, uma biografia cultural* (2007).
- Federico Mayor** — He holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacy. He has served as Director General of UNESCO from 1987 until 1999. He has held numerous political posts, including Advisor to the President of the Spanish Government, Minister of Education and Science and Deputy in the European Parliament. In 1999, he created the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, serving as its President. In 2002, he was appointed to chair the European Research Council Expert Group (ERCEG), and in 2005, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan designated him to serve as Co-President of the High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations. In January, 2007 he was appointed President of the "Initiative for Science in Europe" (ISE). He has served as chairman of the board of directors of the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency since June, 2008. In October, 2010 he was appointed President of the International Commission for the Abolition of the Death Penalty.
- François L'Yvonnet** — Professor of Philosophy and publisher in Paris. His most recent works include: *Michel Serres* (2010); *Louis Massignon, écrits mémorables* (with Ch. Jambet, Fr. Angelier and S. Ayadâ, 2 volumes, coll. Bouquins (2009); *Le Défi de la différence* (with Candido Mendes) (2006); *Simone Weil, le grand passage* (2006); *Baudrillard* (2005).
- Gerardo Caetano** — Historian and political scientist. Academic Director of the Regional Integration Training Centre (CEFIR, for its acronym in Spanish). Coordinator of the Political Observatory, Political Science Institute, University of the Republic (Uruguay). Level III Researcher in Uruguay's National System of Researchers. He has published approximately over 230 publications. His books include: *El Parlamento y la agenda del desarrollo. Estrategias para el Uruguay 2015* (2008), *Aportes de la cooperación descentralizada Unión Europea – América Latina a la cooperación territorial en América Latina. Elementos para el debate* (2007), and *Democracia y gerencia política. Innovación en valores, instrumentos y prácticas* (2006).
- Gianni Vattimo** — Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Turin and former member of the European Parliament. He has been a Visiting Professor at a number of universities in the United States (Yale, Los Angeles, New York University, and State University of New York) and has been awarded the distinction of Doctor *Honoris Causa* on several occasions. Among his recent publications are *Credere di credere* (1996), *Dopo la cristianità. Per un cristianesimo non religioso* (2002), *Il socialismo ossia l'Europa* (2004), *Il futuro della religione. Carità, ironia, solidarietà* (with R. Rorty, 2005), *Ecce Comu. Come si ri-diventa ciò che si era* (2007), and *Addio alla verità* (2009). He is Vice-President of the Academy of Latinity.
- Gilbert Hottois** teaches Contemporary Philosophy at the University of Brussels (Belgium). Member of the Royal Academy of Belgium and the International Institute of Philosophy. From *The inflation of language in contemporary philosophy* (1979) to *Philosophies of science-philosophies of technology* (2004) or *Science between modern values and postmodernity* (2005) and *Dignity and diversity of men* (2009), his critical reflection on language and philosophy evolved into the consideration of philosophical issues raised by science and technology, and Bioethics. Member of several ethics committees, such as the European Group for Ethics in Science and New Technologies and the Advisory Committee on Bioethics of Belgium, he published also the *New encyclopedia of bioethics (medicine-environment-biotechnology)* (main editor, 2001), and *What is bioethics?* (2004). In a field concerning both philosophy and science fiction, he edited two collective volumes (*Science-fiction-speculative*, 1985, and *Philosophy and SF*, 2000) and one novel followed by a philosophical dialogue: *Species technica* (1981; 2001).
- Helena Barroco** — Ph.D. in Philosophy of Quantum Physics (University of Leuven, Belgium). Master in Linguistics (University of Mons, Belgium). Portuguese Diplomat. Diplomatic Advisor to the President of Portugal from 1999 to 2006. She is Special Adviser to former President Jorge Sampaio within his United Nations duties both as UN Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis and as UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations since 2006.
- He Xirong** — She got her bachelor degree from Fudan University in 1982. Since then she started her career as a philosophy researcher at SASS. Now she is Research Professor and Deputy Director of the Institute of Philosophy (SASS). Her main research field is Chinese philosophy, Comparative philosophy between Chinese and the Western, Women Studies. She published books such as *Research on female ethics, structure each other between Buddhism and Chinese traditional philosophy*; co-edited *Search for the root of philosophy—essays of a new round comparative study on the Chinese and Western philosophy* etc. and some papers on comparison.
- Javier Sanjinés C.** is Professor of Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann-Arbor. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and completed post-doctoral work at the University of Chicago with a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship. He has published extensively on Andean literature and culture. His last two books are *Mestizaje upside-down* (2004) and *Embers of the past. Cultural conflict in post-colonial societies* (forthcoming in Duke University Press).
- Jérôme Bindé** is a writer and a futurist. Member of the Club of Rome and of the World Academy of Art and Science. Founding Member of the Academy of Latinity. Former Deputy Assistant Director General for Social and Human Sciences and Director of the Office of Foresight at UNESCO. He is the editor, author or co-author of books such as *The world ahead: our future in the making* (with Federico Mayor), *Keys to the 21st Century*, *The future of values, towards knowledge societies*, *Making peace with the earth* and *Globalization*. His books have been published in fifteen languages, three of them being translated into Chinese. He has also contributed to numerous TV and radio programs and to op/ed pages of about one hundred leading newspapers from different regions of the world.
- Jorge Sampaio** is former President of Portugal. He was appointed United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis and UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Lydia H. Liu** is a theorist of translation and new media. She teaches at Columbia University and is the Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities. She has published extensively on Comparative Literature, translation theory, and modern Chinese literature and history. Her books include *The Freudian robot* (2010), *The clash of empires* (2004), and *Translingual practice* (1995).

PARTICIPANTS

Maria Isabel Mendes de Almeida teaches at the Graduate Program in Social Sciences of the Department of Sociology and Political Science of the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Holding a Master's and a Doctorate degree in Social Sciences from the IUPERJ (University Research Institute of Rio de Janeiro), she took her post-doctoral studies at the Université de Paris Descartes (CNPq fellowship). She is the Pro-Rector for Graduate Studies and Research at Candido Mendes University and Research-Coordinator at its Center for Applied Social Studies. Her books include: with *Katia Tracy*, *Noites nômades. espaço e subjetividade nas culturas jovens contemporâneas* (2003), and with José Machado Pais (orgs.), *Criatividade e profissionalização: jovens, subjetividades e horizontes profissionais* (forthcoming).

Mario Lucio Sousa — Degree in Law from the University of Havana, Cuba. Member of the Cape Verdean Parliament (1991-1996). Minister of Culture. Musician and composer. Author of the following books: *Sob os signos da luz* (1994), *Para nunca mais falarmos de amor* (1999), *Os trinta dias do homem mais pobre do mundo* (2000), *Vidas paralelas* (2004), *Nascimento de um mundo* (2010, Carlos de Oliveira Award for Portuguese Speaking Writers), *Saloon* (2004), and *Theatre collection* (five pieces, 2008).

Renato Janine Ribeiro is Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy at the University of São Paulo since 1993 and wrote several books in political philosophy. Some of them concentrated on Thomas Hobbes, but later he showed a growing concern for the problems that arise when one tries to build a democracy in a dissident Western society, as he characterizes Brazil and some other countries in Latin America and elsewhere. He writes an op-ed column at *Valor Econômico* (www.valoronline.com.br) on Brazilian and international politics every Monday. He taught at Columbia University in 2003-4, and has been Evaluation Director of Brazilian Graduate Studies (a post in the Ministry of Education) from 2004 to 2008. His website is www.renatojanine.pro.br, and his blog is renatojanine.blogspot.com.

Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães Neto — He holds a BA in Law from The National Faculty of Law/Universidade do Brasil (now Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), and a Masters in Economy from Boston University. He was Secretary General of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations from 2003 to 2009, and Minister of Strategic Affairs from 2009 to 2011. He is High Representative General of the Mercosur since 2011. His books include *Quinhentos anos de periferia* (1999) and *Desafios brasileiros na era dos gigantes* (2006).

Santiago Zabala — He is ICREA Research Professor at the University of Barcelona and author of *The remains of Being* (2009), *The hermeneutic nature of analytic philosophy* (2008), co-author, with Gianni Vattimo, of *Hermeneutic communism* (2011), editor of *Weakening philosophy* (2007), *The future of religion* (2005), *Nihilism and emancipation* (2004), *Art's claim to truth* (2009), and co-editor with Jeff Malpas of *Consequences of hermeneutics* (2010). He also writes opinion articles and reviews for *El País*, *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, and other international journals.

Si Han — Ph.D. in Art History and Visual Studies, currently Curator for Chinese art at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden. He was born in 1972 and grew up in Shandong province, China. Since 1996, he has lived in Sweden, where he studied Art History and finished the Ph.D. in Art History and Visual Studies at Göteborg University. His recent book is published in Sweden with title *A Chinese word on image—Zheng Qiao (1104-1162) and his thought on images*.

Susan Buck-Morss is Distinguished Professor of Political Science at CUNY Graduate Center, and core faculty member of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change. Her books include *Hegel, Haiti, and universal history* (2009), *Thinking past terror: Islamism and critical theory on the left* (2003), *Dreamworld and catastrophe: the passing of mass utopia in East and West* (2000); *The dialectics of seeing: Walter Benjamin and the arcades project* (1989); and *The origin of negative dialectics: Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and the critical theory of the Frankfurt School* (Free Press, 1977; 2nd ed., 2002).

Tong Shijun is Vice President of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) and Research Fellow of Philosophy at SASS since 2004. He is also a professor at East China Normal University since 1994 an honorary research fellow at Monash University of Australia since 2005, and a member of the Committee of Social Sciences under the National Ministry of Education since 2004. Among his numerous publications are *Western philosophy at the times of Marx and Engels* (in Chinese, co-authored, 1994) and *Dialectics of modernization: Habermas and the Chinese discourse of modernization* (in English, 2000), as well as more than 100 papers in Chinese and English. He is also the Chinese translator of several important books in English and German, including *Juergen Habermas's Faktizitaet und Geltung* (2003).

Walter D. Mignolo is William H. Wannamaker Professor and Director of the Center for Global Studies and the Humanities at Duke University. He is Visiting Fellow at the Advanced Institute for Cross-Disciplinary Studies, at the City University of Hong Kong (January-June 2012). Some of his work: *the darker side of the Renaissance: literacy, territoriality and colonization* (1995) and *Local histories/global designs: coloniality, subaltern knowledge and border thinking* (2000). *The idea of Latin America* (2005) received the Frantz Fanon Award from the Caribbean Philosophical Association in 2006. *The darker side of Western modernity: global futures, decolonial options* was released in December 2011.

Wang Ning is Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Tsinghua University, and Zhiyuan Chair Professor of Humanities at Shanghai Jiaotong University. Apart from his numerous books and articles in Chinese, he has authored two books in English: *Globalization and cultural translation* (2004), and *Translated modernities: literary and cultural perspectives on globalization and China* (2010). He was elected Member of the Academy of Latinity in 2010.

Xie Weihe is Vice President of Tsinghua University in China. His research interests include Principle of Education, Educational Sociology, and Pedagogy of Higher Education. He has published numerous articles and six books in Chinese on higher education and educational sociology. He got his degrees from Xiamen University, Nanjing University, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He was the Vice President of Beijing Normal University (1992-2002) and Chairman of University Council in Capital Normal University (2002-04) and began to serve as Vice President of Tsinghua University in 2004. He is also Vice Director of the National Council of Higher Educational Management Research, Executive member of the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), and Vice President of the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy.

Yang Guorong — Zhijiang Professor, East China Normal University, Shanghai; Chang Jiang Scholar, Ministry of Education, China; Dean of the School of Advanced Study for Humanities, ECNU; Vice President, National Society of History of Chinese Philosophy in China; Vice President, Society of Confucianism in China; Senior Visiting Scholar, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (1994-1995); Senior Visiting Professor, Harvard University (2002); Fulbright Scholar, Stanford University (2006-2007); Member of the Editorial Board of *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* (USA).

Yang Huilin — Professor of Religious Studies and Comparative Literature, he is Vice President of Renmin University of China. His main publications include *Cultural spirit of Christianity* (1995), *Faith vs. reason* (1999), *Christian background and its cultural extension* (2001), *Theological hermeneutics* (2002), *The history of literary criticism* (2007) and *Religion and interpretation* (2012). The collection of his papers in English, *Christianity in China: the work of Yang Huilin*, was published by M.E. Sharpe Ltd. (New York) in 2004, and his co-edited *Sino-Christian studies in China* was published by Cambridge Scholars' Press in 2006.

Zhang Longxi has a Ph.D. from Harvard University and is currently a Chair Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation at the City University of Hong Kong and a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. He has numerous publications in both English and Chinese on East-West cross-cultural studies and serves on many editorial boards, including *New Literary History* as an Advisory Editor.



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