

Benjamin Penny

Qualifications

PhD (Chinese Religious History), Australian National University, Canberra, 1994

Thesis: Early Daoist Biography: A Study of *Shenxian zhuan*

MPhil (Chinese Studies), Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, 1985

Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours), University of Sydney, 1984

Awards/ Scholarships

University Medal (University of Sydney), 1984

University of Sydney Post-graduate Travelling Scholarship, 1984

Overseas Research Student Bursary (UK), 1984

Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Award, 1984

Australia/China Student Exchange Scheme Scholarship, 1986

Worts Travelling Scholarship (King's College, Cambridge), 1986

ANU Post-graduate Scholarship, 1989

Australian Government Post-graduate Scholarship, 1990

Australian Institute of the Humanities/Chinese Academy of the Social Sciences Exchange Fellowship, 1991

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Post-Doctoral Fellowship (3 years), 1993

Australian Research Council Small Grant, 1994

Australian Research Council Small Grant (3 years), 1996

Australian Research Council Small Grant, 1999

Harold White Research Fellowship, National Library of Australia, 2001

Australian Research Council Small Grant, 2002

Australian Research Council Discovery Grant – Indigenous Researchers Development (Mentor), 2006.

Professional Associations

Chinese Studies Association of Australia

Asian Studies Association of Australia

Nippon dôkyô gakkai (Japanese Association for Daoist Studies)

Royal Asiatic Society.

Professional History

June 2015 – onwards: Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

July 2010 – June 2015: Deputy Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

January 2010 – June 2010: Deputy Director, School of Culture, History and Language (CHL), ANU

October 2005 – June 2010: Fellow, History of China, PAH, RSPAS, then CHL, ANU

January 2005 – October 2005: Research Fellow (half-time), PAH, RSPAS, ANU

August 1999 – October 2005, Executive Officer, The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Foundation (half-time), Humanities Research Centre, ANU

January 2003 – December 2004, Research Fellow (half-time), The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, ANU

August 1996 – August 1999, Project Officer (Academic), Humanities Research Centre, ANU

August 1993 – August 1996, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, China and Korea Centre, ANU

Concurrently, June 1995 – June 1996, Subdean, Faculty of Asian Studies, ANU

Other Languages

Chinese

Publications

Books

The Celestial Master: Zhang Ling and the Origins of Daoism (in preparation)

Tracts in Shanghai (in preparation)

The Religion of the Falun Gong, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012

Daoism in History: Essays in Honour of Liu Ts'un-yan, London: Routledge, 2006

Biography and Religion in China and Tibet, London: Curzon Press, 2002

Chapters

'On the acquisition of moral character', in Geremie R. Barmé and Jeremy Goldkorn (eds.), *China Story Yearbook 2014: Shared Destiny*, Canberra: Australian Centre on China in the World (forthcoming)

'Falun Gong in song and dance', in W. Smith, H. Nakamaki and L. Matsunaga (eds.), *The Management and Marketing of Globalizing Asian Religions*, Amsterdam: IIAS/Amsterdam University Press (forthcoming)

'An exemplary society', in Geremie R. Barmé and Jeremy Goldkorn (eds.), *China Story Yearbook 2013: Civilising China*, Canberra: Australian Centre on China in the World, 2013, online at: <http://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2013/chapter-3-an-exemplary-society/>

'Searching for a sage today', in Geremie R. Barmé with Jeremy Goldkorn, Carolyn Cartier and Gloria Davies (eds.), *China Story Yearbook 2012: Red Rising Red Eclipse*, Canberra: Australian Centre on China in the World, 2012, online at: <http://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2012/chapter-6-searching-for-a-sage-today/>

'Master Li encounters Jesus: Christianity and the configurations of Falun Gong', W. Smith, M. Tomlinson, and L. Manderson (eds.), *Beliefs beyond Borders: Faith, Spiritual Practice and Communities in Asia/Pacific*, New York: Springer, 2012

'Introduction', to *Laozi Daodejing*, Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2008

'Karmic retribution, animal spirits, Falun Gong and the state', in Mayfair Yang, *Chinese Religiosities: Afflictions of Modernity and State Formation*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008, at: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3jn4j8cf#page-1>

Articles on 'Daoxue zhuan', 'Dongxian zhuan', 'Fei Changfang', 'Hagiography', 'Precepts', 'Laojun bashiyi huatu', 'Laojun shuo yibaibashi jie', 'Liexian zhuan', 'Lishi zhenxian tidao tongjian', 'Ma Mingsheng', 'Magu', 'Sandon qunxian lu', 'Shenxian zhuan', 'Taiping jing', 'Wang Yuan', 'Wunengzi', 'Xianyuan bianzhu', 'Xuxian zhuan', 'Xuanpin lu', 'Yellow Turbans' in F. Pregadio (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Daoism*, London: Routledge, 2008

'On dreaming of being left-handed: Liu Ts'un-yan and Daoist studies', in B. Penny (ed.), *Daoism in History*, London: Routledge, 2006, at: http://books.google.com.au/books?id=PAUg-Xelo-IC&pg=PA3&lpg=PA3&dq='On+Dreaming+of+Being+Left-Handed:+Liu+Ts'un-yan+and+Daoist+Studies'&source=bl&ots=vQWunNcuyW&sig=b5U1epfCBO9u75F5Rd9iUQmSMtI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vFWWU_-ECc-ZlQXX8oCQCQ&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q='On%20Dreaming%20of%20Being%20Left-Handed%3A%20Liu%20Ts'un-yan%20and%20Daoist%20Studies'&f=false

'Falun Gong', in *Encarta Online Encyclopedia*, 2003

'Jiao Xian's three lives' in B. Penny (ed.), *Biography and Religion in China and Tibet*, London: Curzon Press, 2002

'Immortals and immortality' in L. Kohn (ed.), *Handbook of Taoism*, Leiden: Brill, 2000

Entries on 'Chinoiserie', 'Egyptology', and 'Macartney's embassy' in I. McCalman (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to the Romantic Age*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999

'Qigong, Daoism and science: some contexts for the *qigong* boom', in M. Lee and A.D. Syrokomla-Stefanowska (eds.), *Modernization of the Chinese Past*, Sydney: Wild Peony, 1993

Journal Articles

'An immigrant Chinese sea God in Australia: The Chinese Background to Sydney's Retreat Street Temple', *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies*, 2, 2008, 54-81, at: http://www.asia-studies.com/asia/CSDS/2008Vol2/54CSDS2008_Ch3_Penny.pdf

'Historicizing 'cross-cultural'', *Humanities Research*, XIV, 2007, at: http://epress.anu.edu.au/hrj/2007_01/pdf/ch01.pdf

'More than one Adam?: Revelation and Philology in Nineteenth-Century China', *Humanities Research*, XIV, 2007, at: http://epress.anu.edu.au/hrj/2007_01/pdf/ch03.pdf

'Shenxian zhuan zhi zuozhe yu banben kao', *Gudian wenxian yanjiu [Research on Classical Literature, Nanjing University]*, 2007, pp. 391-420

'Falun Gong, Buddhism and 'Buddhist Qigong'', *Asian Studies Review*, 29, 1, March, 2005, pp. 35-46, at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/U5ZXNSgoa-8>

'Taking away Joss: Chinese religion and the Wesleyan mission in Castlemaine, 1868', *Humanities Research*, XII, 2005, at: <http://epress.anu.edu.au/hrj2005/pdf/hrj-ch11.pdf>

'The life and times of Li Hongzhi: Falun Gong and religious biography', *China Quarterly*, 175, September 2003, at:
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=182883&fileId=S0305741003000389>

'Falun Gong, prophecy and apocalypse', *East Asian History*, 23, June, 2002, at:
http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/23/EAH23_07.pdf

'Meeting the celestial master', *East Asian History*, 15/16, June/December 1998, pp.53-66, at:
http://eah.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/article-content/15-16/EAH15-16_03.pdf

'The text and authorship of *Shenxian zhuan*', *Journal of Oriental Studies*, 34, 2, 1996, pp. 165-209

'Rookun setsu ippiyaku-hachi-ju kai jo ni okeru Dookyoo to Bukkyoo' in Yamada Toshiaki and Tanaka Funio (eds.), *Dookyoo no rekishi to bunka [The History and Culture of Daoism]*, Tokyo, 1998

'Buddhism and Daoism in *The 180 Precepts Spoken by Lord Lao*', *Taoist Resources*, 6, 2, 1995, pp. 1-16

'*The 180 precepts spoken by Lord Lao: A Translation and Textual Study*' (with Barbara Hendrischke), *Taoist Resources*, 6, 2, 1995, pp. 17-29

'A system of fate calculation in *Taiping Jing*', *Papers in Far Eastern History*, 41, March, 1990, pp. 1-8

Other Notable non-refereed Papers

'Gods and monsters: Celebrity, quackery and religion in contemporary China', Invited Public Lecture, University of Leiden, November 2010

'The early days of the Morrison Lecture', *East Asian History* 34, December 2007, at:
http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/34/EAH34_01.pdf

'The body of Master Li', The Charles Strong Memorial Trust Annual Lecture for the Australian Association of Religious Studies, July 2002, published online at:
<http://www.charlesstrongtrust.org.au/>

Edited Volumes

East Asian History (Online), 37 (2011), at: <http://www.eastasianhistory.org/37>, 38 (2014), at: <http://www.eastasianhistory.org/38>

East Asian History, 32/33 (2008), at:
http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/32-33/EAH32-33_02.pdf, 34 (2009), at: http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/34/EAH34_08.pdf, 35 (2010), at:
http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/35/EAH35_01.pdf, 36 (2010), at: http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/36/EAH36_01.pdf

'Historicising Cross-Cultural Research', *Humanities Research*, XIV, 2007, at:
http://press.anu.edu.au/hrj/2007_01/html/frames.php

'New Religious Formations in East Asia', *Asian Studies Review*, 29, 1, March 2005, at:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/casr20/29/.U5ZaSygoa-8>

International Perspectives on Reconciliation, 2006, The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Foundation, online at:
<http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich/Reconciliation%20contents.php>

'Bigotry and Religion in Australia, 1860-1950', *Humanities Research*, XII, 2005, at:
http://press.anu.edu.au/hrj/2005_01/html/frames.php

Six issues of *Humanities Research* (Winter, 1997, at:
<http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/humanities-research-journal-series/humanities-research-winter-1997/>; 1, 1998, at: <http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/humanities-research-journal-series/humanities-research-no-1-1998/>; 2, 1998, at:
http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/humanities-research-journal-series/hrj1998_2_citation/; 3, 1998, at: http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/humanities-research-journal-series/hrj1998_3_citation/; 1, 1999, at: http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/humanities-research-journal-series/hrj1999_1_citation/; 2, 1999, at:
http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/humanities-research-journal-series/hrj1999_2_citation/)

Mad Cows and Modernity: Cross-disciplinary reflections on the crisis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (Co-editor with Iain McCalman, Canberra: Humanities Research Centre, 1998)

'The Qigong Boom' issue of *Chinese Sociology and Anthropology* (Co-editor with Zhu Xiaoyang), 27,1, Fall, 1994

Book Reviews

Review of *For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors* Janet Lee Scott, in *The China Journal*, 2009

Review of D. Palmer, *Qigong Fever*, in *The China Quarterly*, 2008

Review of *The Scripture on Great Peace*, B. Hendrischke, in *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 2007

Review of *The Philosophy of the Daodejing*, H-G Moeller, in *Asian Studies Review*, 2, 2007

Review of *The Sacred Village*, T. Du Bois, in *Asian Folklore Studies*, 65, 2, 2006

Review of *The Magnitude of Ming*, C. Lupke, in *The China Journal* 56, July, 2006

Review of *Religion and Chinese Society*, J. Lagerwey, in *The China Journal* 54, July, 2005

Review of *Ordinary Images*, S. Abe, in *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 68, 1, February, 2005

Review of *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth: A Translation and Study of Ge Hong's Traditions of Divine Transcendents*, R. Company, in *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 31, 2003

Review of *Old Taoist: the life, art, and poetry of Kodojin*, S. Addiss, in *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, 3, 1, 2001

Review of *God of the Dao: Lord Lao in History and Myth*, L. Kohn, in *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 2000

Review of *The Multimedia I-Ching*, H-Multimedia listserver, 1999

Review of *The Way of Water and the Sprouts of Virtue*, S. Allan, in *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 5, 1, 1999

Review of *Unruly Gods: Divinity and Society in China*, M. Shahar and R. Weller, in *Journal of Religious History*, 22, 1, February, 1998

Review of *Taoist Ritual in Chinese Society and History*, J. Lagerwey, in *Religious Traditions*, 13, 1990

Translations

Biographies of Shen Jian, Li Babai and Jie Xiang from *Shenxian zhuan* in John Minford and Joseph S. M. Lau (eds.), *Classical Chinese Literature: an anthology of translations*, New York: Columbia University Press; Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2000

Conference and Seminar Presentations

'Print-faith; or How to do Things with Tracts', Reading Communities and the Circulation of Print Conference, Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU, April 2014

'Perfectability and the Paranormal in Contemporary China', Congress of the International Association of Historians of Religion, Toronto University, August, 2010

'The Americanisation of Falun Gong', Beliefs Beyond Borders Conference, Monash University, December 2009

'Falun Gong and Counter-representation', Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, ANU, August, 2009

'Teaching Religion in Australian Universities', International Symposium on Education on Religious Cultures in University Curricula, Japanese National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan, August, 2009

'Falun Gong in Song and Dance', International Symposium on Management and Marketing of Globalizing Asian Religions, Japanese National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan, August, 2009

'The Path to Consummation: Transforming the Body in Falun Gong', Victoria University of Wellington, May 2008

'Qigong, Secularisation, Re-enchantment', 'Religious Innovation in East Asia', ANU, November, 2007. 'From "Pseudo-Science" to "Evil Cult" - Critical Responses to Falun Gong', 'Twenty Years and More: Research into Minority Religions, New Religious Movements and "the New Spirituality"', London School of Economics, April 2008

'The Qigong Master from Hell', CSAA Conference, Griffith University, June 2007

'Visions of the Children of Falun Gong', ASAA Conference, Wollongong University, June 2006

'A Word in Your Ear: Qigong and the World of the Paranormal in 1980s China', Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, ANU, June 2006

'Conceptions of the State in Falun Gong', 'Religion, Modernity and the State in China and Taiwan', University of California Santa Barbara, October 2005

'The Religious Condition of the Chinese People', Australian Association for the Study of Religion, University of Sydney, October 2005

'Falun Gong in the National Library', 'An Open Book' conference, National Library of Australia, April 2005

'Qigong Masters and Animal Spirits: Ideas of Possession in Falun Gong', International Association of Historians of Religion, World Congress, Tokyo, April 2005

'Finding a Place for Religion in History', Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, ANU, March 2005

'Writing a History of the Falun Gong', ASAA Conference, Canberra, July 2004

'More than One Adam? Revelation and Prophecy in 19th Century China', Historicising Cross-Cultural Research seminar series, CCR, June 2004

'Buddha's Heads, Flaming Bodies: interpreting desecration, claiming consecration', Workshop on Desecration, CRES, ANU, May 2004

'Falun Gong: What was it? and what is it now?', Refugee Review Tribunal National Members' Conference, August 2003

'A Chinese Temple in Sydney: different readings, different communities,' CCR Visiting Scholars Programme, 'Diasporas and Contested Cultural Heritage', March 2003

'The Falun Gong and Buddhism,' London University SOAS, January 2003

'The Body of Master Li,' Charles Strong Memorial Trust Lecture, Australian Association of Religious Studies Conference, UNE, Armidale, July 2002

Master Li as Buddha, Master Li as Mao,' ANU CCR Seminar, May 2002

'Taking Away Joss: the Wesleyan Mission in Castlemaine, 1868', Religion and Bigotry in Australia, 1865-1950 Freilich Foundation Conference, Humanities Research Centre Conference, December, 2001

'The Past, Present and Future of Falun gong', National Library of Australia, April, 2001; University of Otago Asian Studies Seminar, May 2001

'Nostradamus and Pahaana, the Great White Brother: Falun gong's Use of Prophecy', Melbourne University Institute of Asian Languages and Societies, April, 2001; ANU Anthropology Seminar May, 2001

'Immortality and Geography: or where did Zhang Ling come from?', Humanities Research Centre Conference, 'The History Of Daoism in Honour of Liu Ts'un-yan', August, 1999

'The Humanities Research Centre and the Freilich Program', CHCI Conference 'Public Culture in Two Hemispheres', Queensland Art Gallery, July, 1999

'Pope Pius IX, the Celestial Master and the 1848 Revolution in Italy', Australian Association of Asian Studies Conference, September, 1998

'What was the Celestial Master', ANU Seminars in Religion, October, 1997

'Casting the Net in the Humanities', Humanities Research Centre Conference, March, 1997

'What is a thesis?', Literature and Art Programme, Humanities Research Centre Conference, March, 1997

'Enclosing Daoist Space: Gourds, Cavern Heavens and the Tardis Effect', Chinese Studies Association of Australia Conference, Macquarie University, Sydney, July, 1995

'Buddhism and Daoism in the *180 Precepts Spoken by Lord Lao*', Japanese-American Conference on Daoist Studies, Toyo University, Tokyo, May, 1995

'Monasticism in Early Medieval China: Buddhist Influence and Daoist Monks' Rules', ANU Seminars in Religion, May, 1995

'Zhang Ling or Zhang Daoling: Thinking about the Origins of Daoism', ANU Faculty of Asian Studies Seminar, January, 1995

'Historicising Immortality', Australian Association of Asian Studies Conference, July, 1994

'Making Claims: Interpreting the Different Lives of Immortals', Biography in Asian Religions Conference, April, 1994

'Authentication and Narrative in Early Daoist Biography', Centre for Asian Studies, Auckland University, April 1993

'Sages, Immortals or Frauds: different versions of the same lives in Early Medieval China', History Department Research Seminar, Auckland University, April, 1993