

Martedì 20 maggio 2014, ore 18.00, Aula Magna del Collegio Morgagni

Prof. Fenggang Yang  
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## **“Religion and Politics in Contemporary China”**

### **Abstract**

Officially, China is an atheist country. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) insists that atheism is an essential part of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and religion must be restricted or eradicated from society. Since 1949, the CCP’s policy toward religion has varied from elimination to toleration with restriction. However, religion has survived and revived, and many kinds of religions are thriving today. The lecture will (1) describe the evolvement of religion-state relations in China in the last 65 years, (2) describe the current status of Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Islam, folk religion, Catholicism, and Protestantism, (3) offer a theoretical explanation for the survival and revival of religions under CCP rule, and (4) discuss the broader implications of the Chinese model of religion-state relations in the modern and modernizing world today. And (5), special attention will be given to the Christian growth in China because of its potential profound social impacts on China and the world.

### **Biosketch**

**Fenggang Yang** is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University, Indiana, USA. He is the President-Elect of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. His research focuses on religious change in China and immigrant religions in the United States. He is the author of *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule* (2012) and *Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities* (1999), and the co-editor of six books. He has received two distinguished article awards, “The Red, Black, and Gray Markets of Religion in China” and “Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications”(with Helen Rose Ebaugh). He has given many invited lectures and presentations at major universities and think-tanks, and has been interviewed by the National Public Radio, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, etc. He has served as an elected member of the councils of the ASA Sections of Religion and of Asia and Asian America, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and Association for the Sociology of Religion. He is the Editor of the *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*.