

# MRI International Symposium 4-5 November 2026

## Chinese Rites Controversy Reconsidered:

## Modern Historiography Between

## Beijing, Canton and Rome

### Program (Day 1)

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

**09:30-12:45** (Macau Time, GMT +8)

| Macau Time<br>(GMT +8)                                                                      | Speaker                                                               | Topic                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SESSION 1:</b><br><i>Acta Pekinensia</i> and Beyond<br><b><u>CHAIR: Paul Spooner</u></b> |                                                                       |                                                                                                                        |
| 09:30-10:00                                                                                 | Jaroslav Duraj, S.J.,<br>Director of MRI                              | Introductory Remarks                                                                                                   |
| 09:30-10:00                                                                                 | Alexandre Lobo, Vice-<br>Rector for Research and<br>Innovation at USJ | Welcoming Message                                                                                                      |
| 09:30-10:00                                                                                 | Stephen Tong, S.J.,<br>Provincial                                     | Welcoming Message                                                                                                      |
| 10:00-10:40                                                                                 | Ronnie Po-Chia Hsia                                                   | <b>Keynote Address:</b> Beyond <i>Acta Pekinensia</i> : the Historical<br>Background for the Chinese Rites Controversy |
| 10:45-11:00                                                                                 | <b>BREAK</b>                                                          |                                                                                                                        |
| 11:00-11:30                                                                                 | M. Antoni J. Ucerler, S.J.                                            | The Japanese Rites Controversy: Its Chinese & Global<br>Consequences (1593–1939)                                       |
| 11:30-12:00                                                                                 | Wu Xiaoxin                                                            | The Afterlife of the Chinese Rites Controversy: Archives,<br>Scholars, and the Ricci Institute                         |
| 12:00-12:30                                                                                 | Cristina Osswald                                                      | The Tournon Legacy, Gifts Diplomacy and the <i>Acta<br/>Pekinensia</i>                                                 |
| 12:30-12:45                                                                                 | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>                                                |                                                                                                                        |
| 12:45-13:45                                                                                 | <b>LUNCH (USJ – Nape Campus)</b>                                      |                                                                                                                        |

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### Program (Day 1)

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

**14:00-19:00** (Macau Time, GMT +8)

| Macau Time<br>(GMT +8)                                                                                                                               | Speaker                   | Topic                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>SESSION 2:</b><br><b>Different Voices in the Chinese Rites Controversy</b><br><b><u>CHAIRS: Antoine Ren, S.J. and Olivier Lardinois, S.J.</u></b> |                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 14:00-14:30                                                                                                                                          | Wang Xueying              | Beyond the Latin Archive: <i>Acta Pekinensia</i> and Chinese Catholic Agency                                                                                                |
| 14:30-15:00                                                                                                                                          | Litian Swen               | Emperor Kangxi's Involvement in the Chinese Rites Controversy                                                                                                               |
| 15:00-15:30                                                                                                                                          | Davor Antonucci           | The Missions of Martino Martini and Prospero Intorcetta to Rome and the Rites Controversy: Connections and Outcomes                                                         |
| 15:30-15:45                                                                                                                                          | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 15:45-16:00                                                                                                                                          | <b>BREAK</b>              |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 16:00-16:30                                                                                                                                          | Wang Niecai               | From “vis significativa” to “vis protestativa”: Ritual Meaning, Human Institution, and Missionary Prudence in Jacques Le Faure's <i>De Sinensium ritibus politicis acta</i> |
| 16:30-17:00                                                                                                                                          | Yves Vendé, S.J.          | François Noël and the Mission to Rome: New Testimonies and their echoes in the <i>Acta Pekinensia</i>                                                                       |
| 17:00-17:30                                                                                                                                          | Thierry Meynard, S.J.     | Chinese rites as expressions of materialistic worship: Invention of a “new” type of religion by the Franciscan Antonio Caballero in the Early Qing                          |
| 17:30-18:00                                                                                                                                          | Chen Fang-chung           | The Solitary Chinese Dominican—Luo Wenzao (Gregorio Lopez) in the Rites Controversy                                                                                         |
| 18:00-18:15                                                                                                                                          | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 18:15-18:45                                                                                                                                          | <b>GENERAL DISCUSSION</b> |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 19:00-21:00                                                                                                                                          | <b>DINNER (Hotel)</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                             |

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## Chinese Rites Controversy Reconsidered:

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### Program (Day 2)

Thursday, 5 November 2026

**9:00-16:00** (Macau Time, GMT +8)

| Macau Time (GMT +8)                                                                                                                      | Speaker                                  | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>SESSION 3:</b><br><i>Historiae Sinarum Imperii and Beyond</i><br><b><u>CHAIRS: Felipe Bacalso, S.J. and Franz Gassner, S.V.D.</u></b> |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 09:00-09:30                                                                                                                              | Robert Danieluk, S.J.                    | Between the Confessional and the Desk: Tomasz Ignacy Szpot Dunin S.J. and His Unpublished History of the Jesuit China Mission                                                                    |
| 09:30-10:00                                                                                                                              | Paweł Nowakowski                         | Chinese Rites Controversy Seen from Inside the Jesuit Historical Narrative: Tomasz Szpot Dunin's Method                                                                                          |
| 10:00-10:15                                                                                                                              | <b>BREAK</b>                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:15-10:45                                                                                                                              | Łukasz Burkiewicz                        | The Administrative Roots of the Chinese Rites Controversy in Early Qing China: Evidence from Tomasz Dunin-Szpot's Jap. Sin. 104–105                                                              |
| 10:45-11:15                                                                                                                              | Hanna Wadas                              | Material, Aesthetic, and Performative Dimensions of the Incorporation of Chinese Cultural Elements into Catholic Religious Practice in China, as Reflected in the Works of Tomasz Dunin Szpot SJ |
| 11:15-11:30                                                                                                                              | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11:30-12:45                                                                                                                              | <b>LUNCH (USJ – Green Campus)</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 12:45-13:15                                                                                                                              | Gościwit Malinowski                      | Tomasz Szpot Dunin, the Chinese Rites, and the Collapse of the Padroado System                                                                                                                   |
| 13:15-13:45                                                                                                                              | Liu Xun                                  | Chinese Actors in the Rites Controversy According to Tomasz Szpot Dunin                                                                                                                          |
| 13:45-14:00                                                                                                                              | <b>BREAK</b>                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14:00-14:30                                                                                                                              | Andrzej Wadas                            | Szpot Dunin and Kilian Stumpf: Two Jesuit Narratives of the Same Controversy                                                                                                                     |
| 14:30-15:00                                                                                                                              | Janusz Smolucha                          | Tomasz Szpot Dunin as the Last Jesuit Historian before the Condemnation of the Rites                                                                                                             |
| 15:00-15:15                                                                                                                              | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15:15-15:45                                                                                                                              | <b>ROUNDTABLE AND GENERAL DISCUSSION</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15:45-16:00                                                                                                                              | Jarosław Duraj, S.J.                     | <b>Conclusion and Closing Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                            |
| 18:30- 20:00                                                                                                                             | <b>DINNER (Hotel)</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Notes: Each speaker has 25 minutes for presentation

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Organizer:

The Macau Ricci Institute at the University of St. Joseph, Macau S.A.R, China



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Co-organizers:

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Center for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies at Jesuit University Ignatianum in  
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...



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