

6th MARTIAL ARTS STUDIES RESEARCH NETWORK CONFERENCE

MARS 2020 - Martial Arts, Religion & Spirituality

Digital International Conference

<https://mars2020.hypotheses.org/>



**MARTIAL
ARTS STUDIES
RESEARCH NETWORK**



**MARS 2020 Digital Conference
Martial Arts, Religion & Spirituality**



MARS 2020 - Martial Arts, Religion & Spirituality – 6th Martial Arts Studies Research Network Conference

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to attend the international conference Martial Arts, Religion and Spirituality - MARS 2020 in its digital format (initially planned on 15-17 July 2020 at IRASIA, Aix-Marseille University, France).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the nine panels' discussions (1^h30 min. each) will take place live on TEAMS on **Wednesday 15** and **Thursday 16 July 2020**. Through cross-disciplinary approaches, around sixty participants will assess the mutual influences and linkages between martial arts, religion and spirituality.

Please find all relevant and detailed information on the following Hypothèses platform (daily updated): <https://mars2020.hypotheses.org/>

All the presenters' papers will be uploaded on the dedicated [Youtube](#) channel (MARS Conference) in the coming days. From 15 to 16 July, the participants, as well as external attendants will be able to watch the live discussions of their choice, by contacting the discussants of the panel concerned beforehand to obtain a connection link on TEAMS. During the discussion, everyone will be able to take part to the debates and post questions and comments live on the TEAMS chat-box. The detailed schedule of the discussions will be updated on the Hypothèses platform by July 7th.

All video presentations previously recorded and discussions will be permanently archived on the blog.

We are looking forward to exchanging views and ideas with you!

Yours sincerely,

Laurent Chircop-Reyes (IRASIA, EHESS, FU Berlin) and Gabriel Facal (IRASIA, CASE)

Contact: marsconf2020@gmail.com

Chères et chers collègues,

Nous espérons que ce message vous trouve en excellente santé, ainsi que vos proches.

Nous avons le plaisir de vous inviter au colloque international Martial Arts, Religion and Spirituality - MARS 2020. En raison de la pandémie du Covid-19, cet événement (qui devait se tenir du 15 au 17 juillet à Aix-Marseille Université) aura lieu en direct sur TEAMS. Près d'une soixantaine de participant.es analyseront et discuteront des liens et des influences mutuelles entre arts martiaux, religion et spiritualité.

Veillez trouver toutes les informations utiles relatives à l'événement sur le Carnet Hypothèses suivant : <https://mars2020.hypotheses.org/>

Les présentations vidéo seront mises en ligne sur notre chaîne [Youtube](#) et les discussions afférentes (1^h30 min. chacune) aux neuf ateliers constituant l'événement se dérouleront en ligne les **mercredi 15 et jeudi 16 juillet 2020**. Durant ces deux journées, les participant.es, mais aussi les auditrices et les auditeurs pourront assister aux discussions de leur choix, en contactant au préalable les discutant.es des ateliers concernés afin de recevoir un lien de connexion sur TEAMS. Au cours des discussions chacun pourra prendre part aux débats, et poster des questions et commentaires en direct sur la boîte de discussion. Les horaires des discussions seront mis en ligne le 7 juillet. Les vidéos de présentations, ainsi que les discussions seront archivées de façon pérenne sur le Carnet de recherches et d'événements académiques Hypothèses.

En espérant que vous serez nombreuses et nombreux à assister et à enrichir les discussions, nous restons à votre disposition si toutefois d'autres questions se posaient à vous.

Très chaleureusement,

Laurent Chircop-Reyes (IRASIA, EHESS, FU Berlin) et Gabriel Facal (IRASIA, CASE)

Contact: marsconf2020@gmail.com

CONFERENCE TABLE

- **Opening Remarks: Paul Bowman** (Cardiff University); **Jean-Marc de Grave** (IRASIA, Aix-Marseille University)
- **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DS Farrer** (Palau Community College) – *Martialité*, Yoga, Sorcery and Transformation
- **Technical Remarks: Laurent Chircop Reyes** (IRASIA, EHESS, FU Berlin) and **Gabriel Facal** (IRASIA, CASE)

PANEL 1 – MARTIALITÉ: YOGA, SORCERY AND TRANSFORMATION

- **Discussants: Jean-Marc de Grave** (IRASIA, Aix-Marseille University) & **DS Farrer** (Palau Community College) – Contacts: jmdg58@yahoo.fr; d.s.farrer@gmail.com
- **Daniel Mroz** (University of Ottawa) – Martiality and Transformation: Taolu as a Yoga of Space
- **Adam Frank** (University of Central Arkansas) – Still Life with Qi: Wuji, Standing Like a Stake, and the Aesthetic of the Warrior's Energy Body
- **Ricardo K.S Mak** (Hong Kong Baptist University) – The Invention of Spirituality in Martial Arts in Late-Nineteenth Century China

PANEL 2 – COSMOLOGIES AND HOLISTIC REFERENCES IN THE CONTEXT OF TRANSMISSION AND PERFORMANCE

- **Discussants: Virginie Johan** (Paris-8 University) & **Kathy Foley** (University of California) – Contacts: virginie.johan@gmail.com; kfoley@ucsc.edu
- **Carole Drouelle** (Paris 8-Vincennes University) – Martial Arts Servicing a Spiritual Theatre; Two Cross Examples: Anatoly Vasiliev and Claude Régy
- **Heidi Rasmussen** (Independent researcher) – Kalaripayat, Kalari Massage, and the Relationship with Ayurveda
- **Kolanad Gitanjali** (Independent researcher, IMPACT, Toronto) – How Movement Means: The Ritual Salutation of Kalaripayat
- **S. Gowtham** (KU Leuven) – Apprenticeships and Guru-Sishya Relationships in South Indian Martial Systems
- **George Jennings** (Cardiff Metropolitan University) – “We are the Gods!”: From Mesoamerican Religion to Embodied Philosophy in Mexican Xilam
- **David A. Palmer & Martin Tse** (University of Hong Kong) – The Civil-Martial structure in Chinese Communal Religion: A Buddho-Daoist *Jiao* ritual in northern Guangdong

PANEL 3 – CULTURES OF WAR: FROM CLASSICAL TEXTS TO POPULAR REPRESENTATIONS IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

- **Discussants: Peter Lorge** (Vanderbilt University) & **Laurent Chircop-Reyes** (IRASIA-AMU, EHESS, FU Berlin) – Contacts: peter.lorge@vanderbilt.edu; lau.chircop@gmail.com

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- **Aron Somogyi** (Eötvös Loránd University) – The Concept of “Hard” and “Soft” in Ming Dynasty Fencing Theory and its Parallels in Early Daoist Military Philosophy
- **Wu Dong** (Beijing Sport University) – Traditional Culture Connotations of the Exercise of Pushing Hand in Taijiquan
- **Manuel Stadler** (Leipzig University) – Roger Caillois’ Theoretical Approach to Transgression, the Festival and War
- **Olivier Bernard** (Université Laval) – Magico-religious in the Martial Arts: Between Social Practices and Cultural Industries

PANEL 4 – ETHICS IN MODERN FIGHTING GAMES AND MORAL VALUES REFERENCES IN TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS

- **Discussant: David Palmer** (Hong Kong University) – Contact: palmer19@hku.hk
- **Martin Meyer** (University of Vechta) – I Went to a Fight the other Night and a Hockey Game Broke Out” – ‘The Code’ of Fighting in North American Hockey
- **Louise Seppey, Fabien Ohl & Bertrand Fincoeur** (University of Lausanne) – Analysis of the Power Games around the Institutionalisation of MMA in France
- **Kai Morgan** (Independent Scholar, UK) – Martial Arts, Religion and *Ressentiment*
- **Petra Karlová** (Palacký University in Olomouc) – Significance of Karate for Buddhist Karate Practitioners: A Case of Sri Lanka
- **Maciej Talaga** (University of Warsaw) – ‘Have the Highest Righteous Fencer in your Mind’s eye’: Medieval Martial Ethic as a Conceptual Repository for the Just War Theory
- **Sanko Lewis** (Sahmyook University) – Promoting Peace, Practising War: Mohism’s Resolution of the Paradoxical Ethics of War and Self-Defence in East Asian Martial Arts

PANEL 5 – FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT: FOLK RELIGIONS, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HEALTH

SUB-PANEL 5a – CONTEMPORARY CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS: TRADITIONAL CULTURE, HEALTH AND GLOBALISATION

cultivation are mobilized as a means to convey what is thought as an authentic Chinese culture. Starting from the construction of identity within martial arts local communities in China, the panel will explore the various representations of traditional Chinese culture as discourses and meanings are reconfigured within sport-oriented practices, globalized networks of practitioners and in experimental research in the field of Health Sciences.

- **Discussant: Georges Favraud** (LISST, Toulouse Jean-Jaurès University) – Contact: gfavraud@gmail.com
- **Pierrick Porchet** (University of Geneva) – Re-Appropriating Traditional Chinese Culture within the Wushu Elite Sport Context: Continuity and Rupture
- **Wang Hongwei** (Beijing Normal University) – The Construction of Identity in Folk Martial Arts Community: How Individual Identity becomes Collective Identity
- **Zhang Jianwei** (Beijing Normal University) – Taijiquan and Health Sciences
- **Li Cuihan** (Beijing Normal University) – The Notion of Martiality in Zhuang People Traditional Sports

SUB-PANEL B – CULTURALISING CHAN BUDDHISM AND DAOISM CURATIVE APPLICATION

- **Discussant: Laurent Chircop-Reyes (IRASIA - Aix-Marseille University)** – Contact: lau.chircop@gmail.com
- **Xu Lufeng** (INALCO, Paris) – Promoting Shaolin Kung-fu, Culturalizing Chan Buddhism: Different Strategies of Four Shaolin Temples during the Intangible Cultural Heritage Movement of Chinese Martial Arts
- **Giles Yeates** (Oxford Brookes University) – Daoist Spirituality, Martial Arts & Healthcare: An Interdisciplinary Journey of Translation and Application
- **Joan Listernick** (Boston University) – Tai Chi Forms Designed to Treat Depression

PANEL 6 – DISCIPLINED AND FREED BODIES: ASCETICS, SELF-CULTIVATION, SELF-INFLICTION

- **Discussant: Marceau Chenault (Lyon Est University)** – Contact: marceau.chenault@gmail.com
- **Spencer Bennington** (University of South Florida) – Embodying the Dao: Tae Kwon Do Pumsae as Moving
- **Ron Dziwenka** (Salisbury University) – Martial Art Spiritual Practice: From Process to Praxis to Intuition
- **Noora J. Ronkainen & Tatiana V. Ryba** (University of Jyväskylä, Finland) – Infusing a Martial Artist Identity with Religious Meaning: a Case Study of a Finnish Judoka
- **Matteo di Placido & Lorenzo Pedrini** (University of Milan) – Change Yourself, Change the World: Engaged Spirituality in Boxe Popolare and Odaka Yoga
- **Eric Caulier** (Côte d’Azur University) – Taijiquan: Tradition, Esotericism and Authenticity
- **Bertrand Fincoeur, Margaux Bazarganpour, Diana Mendes Fonseca, Lara Rech, Jessica Rullo, Louise Seppey & Louis Trolliet** (University of Lausanne) – The Practice of Cutting Weight and Extreme Dehydration before an MMA Fight: Analysis of a Controversial Commonplace

PANEL 7 – CHANNELLED VIOLENCE AND TRANSCENDENT EXPERIENCES: FROM COLLECTIVE RITUALS TO INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

- **Discussant: Benoît Gaudin (Versailles Saint-Quentin University)** – Contact: benoit.gaudin@uvsq.fr
- **Jiao Yupeng** (University of California) – “You Cannot Harm Me:” Martial Arts Networks and the Cult of Invulnerability Rituals in Modern China
- **Fiorella Allio** (Aix-Marseille University) – Symbolic Fights and Real Confronts: The Stand Point of Martial Troupes in Taiwan’s Religious Processions
- **Thomas Mallette** (University of Victoria) – Accessing the Sacred: An Ethnographic Account of MMA
- **Alex Channon** (University of Brighton) – Violence, Communities, and the Constitution of the Self through ‘Edgework’ in Mixed Martial Arts

PANEL 8 – ETHNORELIGIOUS IDENTITIES, NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL USES

- **Discussants: Andrea Molle (Chapman University) & Benjamin Judkins (Cornell University) & Gabriel Facal (IRASIA – Aix Marseille University, CASE)** – Contacts: molle@chapman.edu; ben.judkins@gmail.com; facalgab@yahoo.fr

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- **Gabriele Paone** (Oxford University) – Kimono and Rifle. Ethnography of BJJ among the Youngest Inhabitants of a Carioca Favela
- **Raphael Schapira** (Graduate Institute Geneva) – Fighting the Good Fight: Urban Evangelical Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Rio de Janeiro’s Periphery
- **Henrike Neuhaus** (Goldsmiths College, University of London) – The Spiritual and Martial Body: Catholicism and Taekwondo in Urban Argentina
- **J. Desch-Obi** (Baruch College, CUNY) – Pacts, Power, and Community Ethics
- **Andrea Molle** (Chapman University) – A Nation of Warriors: The Impact of Krav Maga on the Ethno-Religious Identity of the Jewish People
- **Steven Jug** (Baylor University) – Adding Faith to Martial Arts and Combat to Orthodoxy in Putin’s Russia

PANEL 9 – ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGIES: INNER AND OUTER PERSPECTIVES

- **Discussants: Edouard L’Hérisson** (IFRAE, INALCO) & **Fanny Caron** (IRASIA - Aix Marseille University) – Contacts: edouard.lherisson@gmail.com; fanicaron@gmail.com
- **Sixt Wetzler** (Deutsches Klingensmuseum Solingen) – Martial Arts and Religion – An Evident Connection?
- **Noora J. Ronkainen** (University of Jyväskylä) – Is this Spirituality? Exploring Reflective Writings on the Spiritual in Martial Arts
- **Anna Kavoura** (University of Jyväskylä) – Methodological Challenges and the Potential of Self-Reflective Writing
- **Gabriel Guarino de Almeida** (PUC-Rio, Brazil) – “The Energy Manifests Itself”: Techniques of Body, Performance and Agency in Taijiquan
- **Thabata Castelo Branco Telles** (University of São Paulo) – Framing Spirituality in Martial Arts: An Embodied Comprehension through Phenomenology
- **KEYNOTE DISCUSSION: Sixt Wetzler & Paul Bowman**
- **Closing Remarks: Jean-Marc de Grave; DS Farrer; Paul Bowman.**

Conference organisers:

- **Paul Bowman**, Professor of Cultural Studies
[School of Journalism](#), Media and Culture, Cardiff University
- **Laurent Chircop-Reyes**, Doctor of social and historical anthropology, Chinese Studies
[GEAS](#) Freie Universität zu Berlin (FU), [CECMC](#) Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS/CNRS), [IRASIA](#) (Aix-Marseille Université/CNRS)
- **Gabriel Facal**, Doctor of social anthropology
[IRASIA](#) (Aix-Marseille Université/CNRS), [CASE](#) (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales/CNRS)
- **DS Farrer**, Professor of social anthropology
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- **Jean-Marc de Grave**, Maître de conférences of social anthropology
[IRASIA](#) (Aix-Marseille Université/CNRS)