



## SINOLOGISCHE VORTRAGSREIHE: Freunde aus der Ferne

Mo, 30. APR 2018, 18 Uhr

Practicing

## Confucian Ancestor Worship

The Boom of Family Temples and the Extravagance of Pudu Activities in Southeast China

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Chinese people have always been interested their past-to worship ancestors is to venerate origins. In recent years, building and refurbishing family temples has become a craze throughout the southern Fujian province as the economy has been prospering. The basic function of family temple is to practise ancestor worship which seems full of religious colour related to the traditional Confucian idea of filial piety. It is the crowd funding by local people that strongly supports the boom of family temples and makes the inauguration of so-called Pudu ("universal salvation") temples come true. The celebration of the Pudu festival includes a series of religious activities with regard to the merits of Pudu Gong in history, which shows an integrated understanding of Confucian, Chinese Buddhist, Taoist as well as folk beliefs. Meanwhile, local businessmen always intend to set up a good moral image via extravagant spending on various kinds of ancestor worship activities.



