



KONFUZIUS-INSTITUT LEIPZIG

莱比锡孔子学院

Der Ort für chinesische Sprache und Kultur

Eintritt frei

SINOLOGISCHE VORTRAGSREIHE:
*China – Kultur & Gesellschaft in Vergangenheit
und Gegenwart*

Mo, 14. MAI 2018, 18 Uhr

Tangut Rule and Identity

in Northwestern China from the 11th to the 13th century

Prof. Dr. Kirill Solonin (Renmin Universität)

In 1038 the Tangut tribal leader Li Yuanhao 李元昊 made sacrifices to heaven and ascended the throne of a newly established kingdom, which became known as *the Great State of White and High*. Chinese sources refer to it as *the Great Xia*, or *the Western Xia* (Xixia 西夏). The Tangut dominated the Ordos area (in present-day Inner Mongolia, PRC) for 200 years and yielded remarkable results in social, cultural, economic, and military domains. There occur three pinnacles in their secular literature which established the framework for their identity: The realm, the king, and the writing. This framework amalgamated a variety of borrowed elements with the Tangut own spiritual heritage, for example Buddhism, traditional Chinese philosophy and Confucianism. In his lecture Prof. Kirill Solonin will discuss how Tanguts located their place in the world, how they looked at the origin of their royal dynasty, and what their idea of writing was. He will explain how this complex process, sometimes called “the Tangut appropriation”, took place, how they combined their native heritage with the things they learned from others, how they presented themselves to the outside world and what they thought of themselves.