ABSTRACTS

Some Methodological Thoughts
on Defining Confucianism in Terms of Religion

YONG CHEN

This thesis investigates some of the methodological problems in defining Confucianism in terms of religion with regard to the pragmatic turn in Western academies of religious studies and reflects on the significance of the controversy about Confucian religiosity in Chinese academies. It argues that the epistemology of the question on Confucian religiosity is not so much about the "essence" of Confucianism per se as about the integrity of conceptualizing Confucianism with regard to the modern category of religion. It proposes that a solid methodological attitude be adopted in trans-culturing the Western concept of religion into the Chinese context, including both a cross-cultural critique of the etymology of religion (*zongjiao*) and a paradigmatic critique of the Chinese terms *rujia*, *rujiao*, and *ruxue* which correspond to "Confucianism" in Western languages.

The Making of a Transnational Public Sphere
(first part)

CAMILA PASTOR DE MARIA Y CAMPOS

At the beginning of the XXIst century, Lebanese migrants to Mexico City have a median income which is significantly higher than that of the Mexican population. I argue that this is the product of the history of their migration, and the institutions that they have developed during the XXth century; which configured a transnational field of public debates which spanned the Mashreq and the American Mahjar, what we could call a "migrant public sphere". The migration began in the late XIXth century, when a diverse cross section of Lebanon's population traveled to the Americas for a variety of reasons. Those with greater access to resources provided employment and credit for the majority of migrants. The relationships which were initially personal or

based in a common village of origin were maintained throughout the XXth century through a variety of institutions generated by the migrants. The earliest of those were aid institutions organized by religious communities; which were followed many decades later by nationally defined social institutions. In the process, a social identity category was created and presented to Mexican society which brings outlier success stories and the middle class majority under the same national category of "Lebanese". This allows their collective identity to be perceived as one of higher prestige by non-Lebanese Mexicans than the "Lebanese" middle class migrant and migrant descent majority would have otherwise enjoyed, and provides new avenues for social mobility.

The Egyptian Tale of *Wenamun*. Egypt and the Syro-Palestinian Coast during Iron Age from Literature, Archaeology and History

MARÍA BELÉN CASTRO

The aim of this article is to analyse the relationships between Egypt and the Syro-Palestinian Coast during Iron Age I. The Egyptian tale of *Wenamun* —which describes the journey of this official to the Lebanon coast—, has been studied by many scholars as a primary source to describe the period. However, we will discuss here this use: we will explain some considerations about the sources nature and the work that scholars should do with them. Furthermore, we will present some archaeological evidence that show the relationship between the regions. In this way, we will try to create a tension between the expressed by the literary text and the evidence from material rests. We consider the former as a valid resource for the analysis, because it may show us different expressions about the issues of a specific society.

The Angolan Independence and the International Policy (1975-1976): A Study with Brazilian Sources

CARLOS FEDERICO DOMÍNGUEZ ÁVILA

This paper explores the difficulties and contradictions that affected the independence of Angola, as well as subsequent events. The research uses

recently declassified Brazilian diplomatic sources from two archives located in Brasilia: the Historical Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Archive. The research was carried out from a history of the international relations perspective, with an emphasis on international policy and the Angola policy of Brazil, the United States, Portugal, and to a lesser extent Cuba.