"How to Build Smart Society"

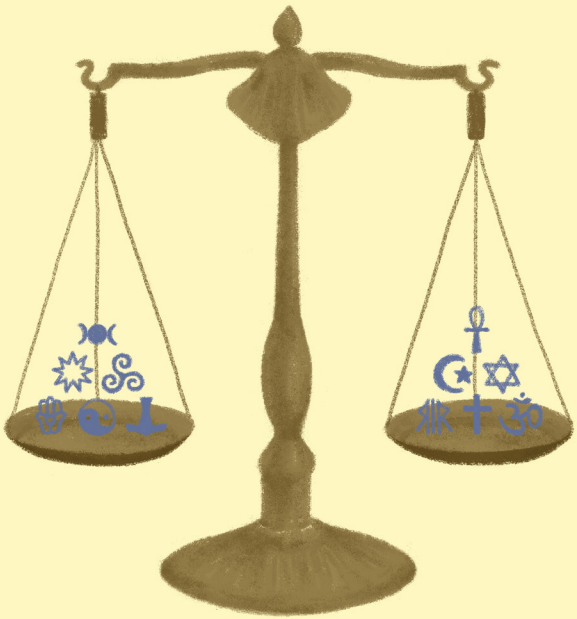
SECULAR STATE

Prof. Mark Csikszentmihalyi

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures,
The University of California, Berkeley, USA

29 MAY 2019 (WED), 10:30 AM

AAB 1312, HKBU



About the Speaker

Mark Csikszentmihalyi, Professor and Eliaser Chair of International Studies, has an AB in East Asian Languages and Civilizations (Harvard) and a Ph.D in Asian Languages (Stanford). He uses both excavated and transmitted texts to reconstruct the religions, philosophies, and cultures of early China. Recent books include *Material Virtue: Ethics and the Body in Early China* (2004) and *Readings in Han Chinese Thought* (2006). He is currently translating a set of Song dynasty essays on the Zhuangzi. He is Editor of the *Journal of Chinese Religions*.

About the Lecture

Modern societies often draw the boundary distinguishing the actions appropriate to government from other social practices, by recourse to a normative model of a secular nation-state made up of citizens free to act on private religious commitments as long as they do not injure others. As theorists like Talal Asad have shown, however, that model emerged from a specific moment in the history of Protestant Europe. Using Chinese history as an example, I will describe traditional models for distinguishing appropriate state action from acceptable non-state practices in both pre-Buddhist and post-Buddhist China, showing in what ways the categories are similar to and different from the modern secular state/private religion model. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, in China, the traditional models were partly replaced by modern categories from the West. Nevertheless, today they provide an alternative taxonomy that holds the potential for reconsidering categories like religion, ideology and the state in ways that might be more suitable to China's present.

About Smart Society Research at HKBU

HKBU's Faculty of Social Sciences is the first in Hong Kong, China to launch an integrated programme of research and exchange on Smart Societies. Smart Societies are those where technology assists people to lead improved lives. We research the possibilities, actions, and consequences of smart societies. We share our original research on-line and through open lectures.

Our approach is global and transdisciplinary. We collaborate internationally and draw best practice from around the world. We are problem-driven, and integrate knowledge in an ecosystem that focuses on areas of key significance to China and Asia including:

- **Environmental and Urban Systems** (including, for example, smart cities, smart energy, smart heritage, smart home, resilient cities, global change and evolution, planetary urbanization)
- **Well-being** (including, healthy living, food and nutrition, active ageing and congition stimulation, digital health care systems, evergaming and esports)
- **Populations** (including, digital divide, intergenerational caring, ethnic and racial studies, digital access, transnational networks, digital family hood)
- **Learning and Praxis** (including, egovernance, smart schools, disintermediated education, citizen science, data analytics application)

For further details, access to our outputs, and collaboration opportunities, please visit us:

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Address : Room 1325, 13/F, Academic and Administration Building, Baptist University Road Campus, HKBU, Kowloon Tong
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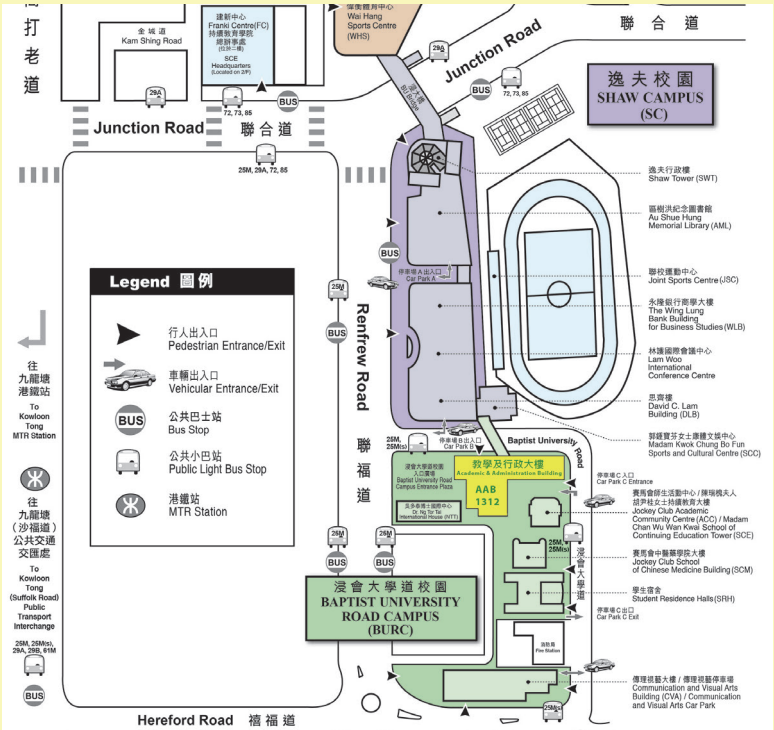

Venue: AAB 1312, 13/F, Academic and Administration Building, Baptist University Road Campus, HKBU, Kowloon Tong

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Registration by 27 May 2019:

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