

2010-2011 Social Sciences Supper Club Series**“The Return of Religion in a Post-Secular China”**

Wednesday, October 20, 2010
5:30 pm, UC San Diego Faculty Club

Featuring Professor Richard Madsen, Ph.D.
Chair, UCSD Department of Sociology

One of the foundations of modern sociological theory is the assumption that the modern world is becoming ever more secular – that religion is dying out or becoming irrelevant to modern life. But it is now apparent that the facts do not bear this out. In China, as in the rest of the world, religion is evolving dynamically and having a great influence on public life. In China, this dynamic development causes great confusion for the Communist Party, which is wedded to the assumption that religion will steadily die out. Professor Madsen’s recent research is about the challenges posed by the rapid development of religion to the Chinese Communist Party’s policy and practice.



Professor Richard Madsen is the Chair (Department of Sociology), and a Distinguished Professor of Sociology (UC San Diego). He was a co-director of a Ford Foundation project to help revive the academic discipline of sociology in China.

Professor Madsen is the author, or co-author of twelve books on Chinese culture, American culture, and international relations. He has also written scholarly articles on how to compare cultures and facilitate dialogue among them. One of his best known works on American culture is *Habits of the Heart* which explores and criticizes the culture of individualism and the institutions that sustain it. It won the LA Times Book Award and was jury nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book on Chinese culture is, *Democracy’s Dharma: Religious Renaissance and Political Development in Taiwan* and his most recent book on social theory is, *The Many and the One: Religious and Secular Perspectives on Ethical Pluralism in the Modern World*.

Supper Club events include a wine reception, full dinner, and Faculty Club parking in addition to the lecture. Purchase a table for eight at a discounted rate and bring your friends, neighbors or co-workers. To register, please send \$65/person or \$450/table and the completed form below to: Social Sciences Supper Club, 9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0502, La Jolla, California 92093-0502. Please make checks payable to UC Regents.

Name(s) _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Number of guests attending _____ Total Amount \$ _____
If using a credit card, please circle one: Mastercard VISA American Express
Name on Card _____ Card # _____
Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Reservations or additional information may be obtained by calling Marcie Marsh at 858-246-0372 or by emailing: mmarsh@ucsd.edu

Future Supper Club Events:
February 16, 2011
May 4, 2011