

天主教在今天中国的实证研究法 之可取性与局限性

Empirical Study on the Catholic Church in China
Today—Strengths and Limitations

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[英文提要]

Given the historical and social changes taking place in China today, many scholars are interested in studying the Catholic Church of China. They employ both speculative and empirical methods of research. While historical research is beneficial to the church, empirical research can provide data and analyses of current situations and challenges of Catholic communities across China, thus enabling the church to manage growth and develop plans for the future. This paper discusses a research project that tries to serve this purpose. Data have been drawn from different surveys and reports.

The research project was limited by the small number of Catholics in China relative to the Catholic Church at large. Also the latest primary data came from a historical survey completed in 2001. But plans for further study are underway.

Restricted by funding as well as governmental or institutional constraints, the surveys and questionnaires were collected from a limited number of Catholic dioceses, seminaries, and congregations. The result was a general survey that provided specific information where appropriate or possible. There is need for more sociological research on Christianity in China, the methodology of which we hope will continue to mature as the opportunity and feasibility for study expand, especially to major campuses throughout the country.

一、概论

292 随着历史与社会的改变，今天有很多学者从不同角度对天主教会在中国的现状研究产生很大的兴趣。^① 他们采取不同的方法从理论与实证两方面进行研究。从过去的研究经验来看，我们发现实证研究可以从历史资料及田野统计数据来分析来展开。

通过对教会历史的研究，我们不但可以反省天主教会的历史经验是什么，还可以通过从事教会工作的神父、修女们最感兴趣

^① 参见卓新平、许志伟编：《基督宗教研究》，北京，社会科学文献出版社，第1辑，1999年12月；第2辑，2000年10月。Uhalley & Wu *China and Christianity; Burdened Past, Hopeful Future* by Ricci Institute for Chinese and Western Cultural History, press 2001, Donald E. MacInnis, *Religion in China Today, Policy & Practice*, Maryknoll, NY 1989; Edmond Tang & Jean-Paul Wiest, *The Catholic Church in Modern China*, Maryknoll, New York, 1993; John Tong, *Challenges and Hopes, Stories from the Catholic Church in China*, Taipei, Taiwan, 1999; Julia Ching, *Confucianism and Christianity a Comparative Study*, Sophia University, Tokyo press, 1987; Richard Madsen, *China's Catholics, Tragedy and Hope, in an Emerging Civil Society*, University of California Press, 1998, 及《中国教会论文集》，1999。