

**International Symposium on “Spirituality, Culture, and Chinese Societies:
Interdisciplinary and Interfaith Dialogues” October 6-7, 2023**

Speaker: Professor LAI Chi Tim

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Title:

Digital Technology and Daoist Culture: Preservation of Daoist Heritage through Digitization

Abstract:

This talk will showcase the three phases of the digitization project on preservation of Daoist heritage, which has been developing and expanding by Professor Lai Chi Tim and his research team for more than a decade since 2012. It aims to continue Daoist legacies and traditions, revive (the life of) the tangible and intangible heritage in the digital realm, and conserves and promotes Daoist culture through digitization and the applications of digital technologies. The three phases are: (1) The Digital Daoist Museum, capturing 139 local temples and Daoist monasteries, along with documentations of their history, architecture, deities worshipped, stele inscriptions, etc.; (2) the Digital Database of Daoist Texts, archiving and coordinating ritual manuscripts, scripture, Daoist texts, and related images; (3) the Digital Database of the Daoist Literati and Gentry in Guangdong from the late Qing to the Republican Period, presenting the collective biographies of the selected personalities and their social networks. With the three databases encompassing themes of geographical information, textual materials, and notable Daoist personalities, this digitization project applies new approaches and fully utilizes various digital tools to build a comprehensive collection of Daoist heritage and culture, and, most importantly, to visualize their qualities. It vastly emphasizes the religious values and significances of Daoist culture, as well as serves as a user-friendly tool and an open-access educational platform for a wider audience worldwide.