Religious Diversity Colloquium

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Han Xiaorong (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

“The Chinese Community in North Vietnam before and after 1978”

The North Vietnamese government adopted rather lenient policies toward the Chinese residents in North Vietnam before the late 1970s mainly because the Vietnamese leaders saw the relationship between the Vietnamese state and the Chinese community as part of North Vietnam’s relationship with China. These policies contributed to a delay in the assimilation of the Chinese residents. After the reunification of Vietnam, the desire to clarify loyalty led the Vietnamese government to initiate more aggressive measures to assimilate the Chinese. This policy change, along with the deterioration of relations between Vietnam and China, triggered an exodus of Chinese residents from North Vietnam to China, where they were treated as both refugees and returned overseas Chinese.

XIAORONG HAN teaches Chinese history at the Department of Chinese Culture of Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Hawaii, and his research has focused on the interactions between intellectuals and peasants and between state and ethnic minorities in China, as well as China’s relations with her neighbors, particularly Vietnam. His publications include *Chinese Discourses on the Peasant, 1900-1949* (SUNY, 2005), *Red God: Wei Baqun and His Peasant Revolution in Southern China, 1894-1932* (SUNY, 2014), *Zhongguo minzu gu-anxi sanlun* (Ethnic Relations in China (World Scientific, 2015), and numerous articles.