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## **Traditional-Religious Chinese Value Systems and Human Rights**

China, Religion, Values, Human Rights

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights clearly formulates its demands universally. Yet, when it comes to the concrete application of these rights, the claim for universality does not remain unquestioned. The question that is asked is whether or not human rights fit into all cultural contexts, or if they are just another aspect of western cultural imperialism.

This discussion is especially vivid in the Chinese context. It is the goal of this PhD-project to analyze the different constructions of the relationship between traditional-religious Chinese values (TRCV) and human rights, both on a philosophical and sociological-empirical level. In a first step the two concepts are analyzed in their historical context. An examination of contemporary philosophical approaches then indicates the difficulties of trying to define the relationship between the two value systems by comparing certain concepts on a theoretical level. Personal agendas seem most influential to the outcome of such studies. That is why this study chooses a more empirical and sociological approach, which starts with some theoretical reflections about values and the relationship between values and religion. The heart of the study is a quantitative survey among students at Fudan University in Shanghai, China. This survey provides data about the religiosity (beliefs, activities, affiliation) of the students, their support for TRCV and human rights, about the relationship between religiosity, TRCV and support for human rights. The data also gives sociological explanations for the variance in the data.