1. Own research: The Ritual Civilization: Western Understandings of Confucianism

2. An Introduction to the International Journal of Asian Studies (IJAS)

Abstract:

1. I will offer a brief survey of my past research, then introduce my current work on the Chinese concept of *li* 禮, both in China and in Western accounts of Confucianism and Chinese ritual. *Li* 禮, which I would argue even from ancient times in China reflects conceptions which in some respects are similar to modern academic understandings of 'culture' as a basic human function. In the West, *li* 禮, for the most part equated with 'ritual, has for several centuries attracted attention as a fundamental characteristic of Chinese civilization, and this intellectual heritage still exerts a degree of influence on modern Western scholarship on China.

2. I will give a report on the current situation of the Institute's English-language journal IJAS and its possibilities for the future. The journal is an extension of the Institute worldwide, and offers opportunities for enhancing our international prestige and research profile. IJAS has been reasonably successful, especially thanks to being published by Cambridge University Press, and is now enjoying modest growth in a time when other journals have been flagging. However, it still has some way to go if it is to become one of the top journals in Asian Studies, and I will lay out my ideas on how to achieve this.