

Feng shui

ONLINE SEMINAR

Thursday 30th November

7 pm – 8:30 pm

In everyday Chinese life, why can't mirrors be placed facing the bed or the front door? Why should the main entrance avoid facing a staircase or elevator? Why should the room be square and avoid sharp corners and edges? Why must toilet not face out the main door, or even a subsidiary door? And why do Chinese people like to hang a gourd or a peach wood sword in their home or office?

And in the typical traditional Chinese house, why should the main hall sit in the north of the central courtyard? Why would there seldom be a main entrance opening to the north? Why is there a screen wall standing between the main entrance and the courtyard? And why should there be some small pool or fountain in a courtyard or in front of house?

There are so many issues in everyday Chinese life concerning *Feng Shui*. *Feng Shui* is made up of both *Feng* (风, wind) and *Shui* (水, water) in Chinese language to express the power of the flowing elements of the natural environment, in which placing oneself in a proper and favorable way is believed to bring good fortune, peace, fertility, and a longer life. *Feng Shui* has been put to use in a wealth of modern popular pursuits. Albeit the great interest it has created in our life, people tend to have only vague notions of *Feng Shui*'s origin and meaning, and even less understanding of the nature of *Feng Shui* practice.

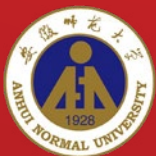
This lecture aims to clarify the meaning of *Feng Shui* by having it embedded in the traditional Chinese philosophy and religion, with Qi, the so-called Earth's Blood, as one of the key factors of *Feng Shui* mechanism and practice. The Chinese people regard Qi in *Feng Shui* as the pivot to place themselves in the living environment, and believe it will bring good fortune, peace, fertility, and a longer life. By interpreting the value of Qi in *Feng Shui*, we hope to present the ancient Chinese cosmology that the whole universe was seen as a living organism. And with the understanding the function of Qi in *Feng Shui*, we will try to explore its reasonability in dominating the Chinese daily life practice, especially in the traditional Chinese house structure and interior setting.



Dr. Tao Jianmin

Dr. Tao Jianmin is an assistant professor from the School of International Chinese Studies at East China Normal University (ECNU), supervisor in the master program in Applied Linguistics. He got his Doctorate Degree in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics from ECNU. Dr. Tao has studied and worked in some renowned universities in China, the USA, South Korea and Australia, having rich academic research and practical experience in Chinese language education and Chinese culture transmission both at home and abroad. He has published over 20 academic papers and three books on language education and contrastive linguistics by now.

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