



*Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education
Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies
Michitoshi Soga Japan Center
At Western Michigan University
Invite you to participate in
An international symposium on
July 26-27, 2024*

ASIAN FORUM 2024: Self-Cultivation in East Asian Martial Arts

We invite paper proposals for the 2024 Asian Forum on “Self-Cultivation in East Asian Martial Arts.” East Asian martial arts are often seen as more than just physical training, expertise in self-defense, or sporting competition. Many consider them a form of self-cultivation and self-discipline, a means to instill specific cultural and social norms related to proper moral conduct, religious goals, and spiritual attainment. This perspective on martial arts remains prevalent in popular culture. The academic study of martial arts has expanded in recent decades, as evident in the journal *Martial Arts Studies*. Interest in self-cultivation in Asian religions has also grown through works such as those by Puett and Keenan. We aim to continue advancing scholarship in new directions. We plan to hold a hybrid symposium to bring scholars together to discuss self-cultivation in East Asian martial arts, including those arts adopted outside Asia that subsequently underwent transformations not only in terms of physical practice but also within their religious and spiritual framework. We welcome papers from all relevant disciplines, and full panel proposals will also be considered. The conference language will be English. We envision publication of papers after the conference.

The symposium will take place in Kalamazoo, Michigan on July 26 and 27, 2024, with the option for virtual attendance. Accommodation and meals will be provided for in-person attendees.

Please submit a 180-200 word abstract describing your proposed presentation, along with your paper title and a one to two page c.v. to Dr. Ying Zeng at hige-asia@wmich.edu by **March 31, 2024**.

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